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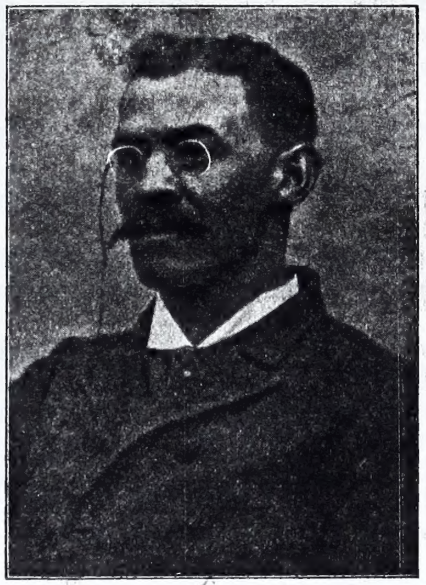
WEEDEN'S HISTORY OF THE
COLORED PEOPLE OF
LOUISVILLE

# WEEDEN'S HISTORY

—OF—

# The Colored People of Louisville.

EDITED AND COMPILED BY



H. C. WEEDEN.

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An interesting recount of Churches erected before the war and since. History of Colored Orphans' Home, St. James Old Folks' Home, Industrial School of Reform, Masons, Odd Fellows, United Brothers of Friendship, Medical College, Hospital, Drug Store, Doctors, Lawyers, Etc.

A full review of the Schools for 50 years to 1897. First building erected. Number of Churches; Number of Members. Number of Sunday-school scholars and probable value of property. Population, Vote, Wealth at the close of war and at present and etc.

With an appendix containing letters from leading white citizen touching upon colored people's interests.

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LOUISVILLE, KY.:
1897.

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# WHY THIS PUBLICATION?

No selfish motive, as some might think, has induced me to write these pages. I have long since thought that an account of my people (the Sunny Side) would be of consequence.

My friend, Mr. C. C. Vogt, President of the Five Brothers' Tobacco Works, kindly and sincerely referred me to the December issue of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, which contained an article upon the conditions and methods by which a colored slave girl was sold by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher from his pulpit. I was intensely impressed with the idea, and was persuaded in my mind that this was an opportune time for these pages. The monstrosity of slavery is dead, and WE are all citizens, therefore it behooves us to reach higher and inquire more.

To bring about a better state of affairs in any community is to educate and teach industry to all classes.

If I had genius, brilliancy of speech, and a great knowledge of letters, I could not make a deeper impression upon your mind than your educational, religious and financial record.

We should not forget, however, we owe a debt of gratitude to many of our white friends, among whom might be metioned: Generals James A. Ekin, Eli Murray, J. F. Speed and B. H. Bristow; Drs. Stuart Robinson, J. H. Heywood, E. P. Humphrey, T. T. Eaton and John N. Norton; Bishop T. U. Dudley; Colonels Bennett H. Young, James Buckner, Sr., James W. Bowles, R. M. Kelly; Captain John H. Leathers; Messrs. W. H. Bulkey, B. F. Camp, J. D. Pope, B. F. Avery, T. T. Alexander, J. B. Temple, F. D. Carley, W. G. Meyer, John Finzer, George H. Tingley, G. H. Cochran, Eckstein Norton, W. B. Belknap, W. N. Haldeman, J. G. Barrett, J. W. Henning, John L. Wheat G. W. Norton, Milton H. Smith; Judge Bland Ballard and others who have contributed by word and deed to advance our interest in this city.

I am indebted to Major Davis, Mr. Kelleher and Prof. Mark, of the School Board, for statistics and permission to examine the records; Captain John H. Leathers, Mr. J. A. Zimmerman and Mr. Peter Caldwell, officials of the Industrial School of Reform; Mr. D. F. Murphy, City Assessor, and also my esteemed friend, Colonel Bennett H. Young, for information and records regarding the Colored Orphans' Home, and many others who were so kind in giving me information in my investigation in order to detail the facts as I have presented them.

I hope these pages may so inspire us that we may have a greater ambition to become more useful citizens. For this production I lay no claim for literary merit, but wish all infinite wisdom and prosperity.

February 25, 1897. H. C. W.

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# OUR COMPILER.

Mr. Henry Clay Weeden was born in Oldham county, Kentucky. Dr. Givens and wife taught him to read and write before entering the LaGrange public schools, presided over by the Rev. E. P. Marrs. He came to Louisville at an early age and entered the old school at Fourteenth and Broadway, afterwards attending the city schools, passing through them he entered the services of Dr. Stuart Robinson and Col. Bennett H. Young. He continued his studies under these distinguished gentlemen, especially those in languages, and Latin under Col. Bennett H. Young of whom he is a protege. He then became sub-publisher of the *Christian Index*, under the late Bishop Miles, keeping the books and looking after nearly 1800 subscribers. After this he became editor of *Zion's Banner*, having the distinction of being the youngest editor in the world. His editorials were copied and commented upon by so able a paper as the *New York Independent*. This was, indeed, an honor. Since then he has been connected with several papers as correspondent and on the editorial staff. He has represented local dailies, being the only colored man in the city holding a certificate from same. During the G. A. R. Encampment, 1895, he was special reporter, and was allowed to go through all lines and enter all places in search of news. In 1881, as associate special reporter to Mr. Joseph Ekin (now of the *New York World*) to reported the proceedings of the great educational convention which met at Lexington.

As a church worker Mr. Weeden has rendered great services. He was superintendent of Sabbath Schools twelve years, and for twelve consecutive years he was made delegate to Annual Conferences of Zion Church. Twice has he been a member of General Conferences, and appointed to represent his Church at the Ecumenical Conference at Baltimore, and assigned to read a paper on "Missions."

As a politician Mr. Weeden stands high. He is a good speaker and an able organizer. He was a member of the National Republican League of the United States, which met in Buffalo, New York, September, 1892, elected from State at large. By support of the New Jersey delegation he was elected secretary of one of the leading committees. He held a high position in the postal service. During General Harrison's term of office, he held the highest office of any colored man in this district, and as a guager he distinguished himself. Mr. Riley, chief deputy under Colonel Scott, said of him: "Mr. Weeden is the only colored guager in the United States." So able was he along this line the special agents recommended him to the Department at Washington in glowing terms. He has been a delegate to Republican conventions for ten years, and a member of the City and County Committee for eight years. In 1892 he was elected secretary of the Fifth District Republican Convention, being the first colored man so honored. He has been identified with every movement for the advancement of his people.

He is a Knight Templar and Thirty-second degree Mason. Recently the Zion Church honored him by making him trustee of Atkinson College, Madisonville, Ky.

He is still actively engaged in newspaper work, being on the staff of the *Star of Zion*, the connectional paper which speaks to 450,000 people. Besides this he does special work for the dailies. For nearly two years he has been connected with J. P. Simmons as local and traveling salesman.

No young man among us is better known for uprightness of living and devotion to duty than he. His qualities are such that many older men would do well to copy them.

I have known him for years, and the better I know him the better I like him. So far, he has made an heroic effort to be of service to his fellow-men, and by so doing has won a host of friends. So well has he improved the past that if the future has not in store for him many good things it will do him a great wrong.

Louisville, Ky. JOSEPH S. COTTER.

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## Historical Review of Prominent Colored People and Institutions.

**Solomon Stone** is our colored broker, and does quite a business in small and large loans. At one time he followed the blacksmithing business on Green street, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

**A. J. Bibb** is a builder, and has followed this trade throughout his life. He came to Louisville in 1865, and has lived here since. He is pronounced the safest business man in town, and his counsel is sought on various occasions. He is president of the Louisville Cemetery and secretary of the Trustee Board of Quinn Chapel. He is worth between $2,000 and $3,000.

**John Crawley**—He was a slave and is sixty-one years of age. After the war he moved to the city, and secured a position with the L. & N. Railroad as train porter between Louisville and Cincinnati; he held this position for nineteen years and resigned to spend the rest of his life easily by following his trade, that of a shoemaker. He was quite frugal, and saved up between $6,000 and $7,000. He was for several years treasurer of Jacob-Street Tabernacle, and has served for many years as one of the church trustees. He has many friends, white and black, and has a great fancy for young men. He had not the advantage of an education, but has, by hard study, learned to read and write.

**W. H. Lawson** has been quite a prominent man with his people. He was born in Maysville, Ky., and attended the school at Ripley, Ohio. He came to Louisville in 1859, and learned the painter's trade under the late Peter Lewis. He then took up artistic painting and decorating, and photography, which he follows to-day. He was in the 122d regiment, U. S. C. I., and was quartermaster sergeant. He served for thirty years as superintendent of the Twelfth-street Sunday School, and was an untiring church worker. He was one of the original organizers of the U. B. F.'s, and has filled the office of State and National Grand Master, and wrote the ritualistic work. He is a born poet, and has written several poems which have been widely published. He made the race for Marshal of the City Court in 1872, and was thought by many to have been elected, but the certificate of election was issued to one of his sixteen competitors.

**Madison Minnis** was the first of his race to be appointed to the position of chief janitor of the City Hall. He was full of race pride, and worked unceasingly to advance his people. He was first vice-president of the Colored Orphans' Home. He died in 1884, at which time he was employed as janitor and custodian of the City Hall. The city engine bells were tolled, commemorating his death. This marked the first time in Louisville's history an occurance of this kind.

**W. H. Ward** is a familiar figure to many citizens, both white and colored, and possibly has come in contact with more people than any one colored man. He has for seventeen years served as chief janitor of the City Hall building. His first appointment was made by Mr. John G. Baxter in 1879. He was the first colored man to serve on the city and county Republican Committee, and was on the committee during the terms General Eli Murray and Colonel James Buckner as chairmen. In 1870 he was placed in nomination, by Isaac Curtis, for jailer, and was defeated by Colonel John Mehringer. In 1878 he made the race for Marshal of the City Court, receiving 3,212 votes, carrying his own precinct. In 1877, when the strike and riot was started and the colored people were charged, by the newspapers, with bringing about this disorder, he formed a company of thirty-five men and offered his services to Mayor Jacob, demonstrating the loyalty and patriotism of the colored man. The company was accepted, sworn in by his Honor, the Mayor, and properly armed and given quarters in the City Hall on the third floor; he was elected captain, and Colonel John H. Ward was the colonel of the regiment. After peace and quietude were restored the company was placed upon the pay-roll and each man was paid in common with other men who had rendered service. He afterwards received a commission as captain from



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Governor McCreary. Mr. Ward was born in Virginia, and received his early educational training at the Denum and Gilmore schools of Cincinnati He went South with ex-Governor Pinchback, and permanently located in Louisville in 1855. He urged and used his influence for the erection of the House of Refuge, and took an active part in the common school question. He was the first man south of the Ohio river to serve on the sub-committee, G. U. O. of O. F., and was the first district grand master of the order in the State. He is serving his fifth year as president of the consolidated lodges of Odd Fellows of this city, and, it is said, that it was largely through his influence that the order borrowed $15,000 from the Mutual Life Insurance Company to erect the present building at Thirteenth and Walnut. Mr. Ward left with ex-Mayor Jacob for a trip around the world, May 14, 1890, and was gone four months. He says he has done business in the neighborhood of the City Hall for forty years.

**George Thomas** is, possibly, the oldest choir leader in this city. He was a music pupil of Mr. W. H. Gibson in 1849 and was in his night schools from 1849 to 1855. In 1864 he enlisted in the United States colored troops, and gave lessons to quite a number of his comrades. Before the war he followed engineering, and on his return he followed that of his profession. He has served for twenty-five years as leader of the Green-street Church choir and as Sunday School superintendent for twenty-four years. He has taken part in all the musical events of his people, and was acknowledged, at one time, the leading basso of the city. He is a clever gentleman, and every person has a good word for him after once meeting him. He takes great interest in his people. Mr. Thomas was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, in 1830 and is consequently sixty-six years old.

**Aaron Payne, Sr**, was born in Lebanon, Kentucky, June 12, 1822. He came to Louisville, when a boy of fourteen, and engaged in various kinds of work. He was married to Maria Maxey in 1847. He purchased his freedom in 1861 for $1,200, working day and night to accomplish this object. He was a skilled stationary engineer, and held some of the most responsible positions in the city. For twelve years he had charge of the machinery at Smith & Roland's soap and candle factory. He held a like position for ten years at the Champion Saw Mills, and for many years was engineer at the Melwood Distillery and Old Kentucky Distillery. Mr. Payne was a polished gentleman, a devout Christian and an ardent lover of his race. He raised a family of six children, all of whom he gave the advantage of a good education. He became a Christian quite early in life, and was a faithful member of the Green-street Baptist Church, serving as deacon of the same for over thirty years. It was never too hot nor too cold to keep him from his post of duty, but there, like the faithful sentinel, he was to be found where he was placed, in sunshine or in rain. He was not learned like Dr. Simmons nor was he eloquent like Douglass, but conceded to none a greater love and a more humble devotion to his maker than that which burned upon the alter of his soul. He died June 22, 1894.

**Albert S. White** is a Louisville young man. Completing his education in the city schools and the State University he studied law at Howard University, Washington. On receiving his diploma, in 1892, he returned to this city and was examined by County Attorney L. C. Woolfolk and Hon. A. E. Wilson, passing a successful examination. He has also been admitted to practice in United States courts and Court of Appeals. He has shown much ability as a young lawyer, and his future is bright. The confidence of the public is growing in his favor.

**James May**, who served nineteen years at Ninth and Magazine School as janitor, is filling a like position at Sixth and Kentucky School. He is a genial, good, clever man, and always has a good word for you. He is Past Worshipful Master and Past Eminent Commander, and, it is said, one of the brightest Masons of his race in the State. He is credited with having builded three lodges of Masons. His father was emancipated sixty years ago, and in a will was left over half a million dollars worth of land in several counties of the State. Mr. May located in the city from Bardstown thirty years ago, and has labored hard to recover part of the property.

**James Brown** is said to be the oldest drayman in town. He is eighty-eight years old and was running drays sixty years ago. He is computed to be worth several thousand dollars, some say he is fully worth $10,000.

**Frank Gray**, the sexton of the Christian Church, Fourth and Walnut, has filled



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the place for years. Notwithstanding he can neither read nor write he has amassed quite a little fortune. He is the owner of three or four houses. He is a member of the directory of the Colored Orphans' Home, and has been several times on the Board.

**James M. Burley** gives to Louisville a colored jeweler. He has been conducting his business in this city for twelve years, and followed his trade for thirteen years at Georgetown, Ky. He is a self-made man in the business and thoroughly competent, and ran a successful business in his town, doing work for some of the leading white citizens. He has a good business here and works for all classes, and makes a specialty of gold and silver plating. He is a graduate of the State University, Normal class, 1890, and was valedictorian.

**Shelby Gillispie** was appointed sexton of the Second Presbyterian Church June 6, 1866, when the church was on Third street, between Green and Walnut, and is yet serving in that capacity. He is a prominent Odd Fellow, and served the Jacob-street Tabernacle as its treasurer. He was in the first movement to establish a colored orphans' home, and arranged for the second meeting, which was held at the church of which he is sexton.

**Detroit Stewart** was a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, and, it is said, that through his efforts colored men were forced in the Fire Department. He held a position in the Post Office during the Harrison administration. He has been connected with many movements of our people, serving as vice-president of the consolidated lodges of Odd Fellows and director of the Louisville Cemetery. He is at present filling the place of sexton at the Louisville Cemetery, and his equal can not be found. He has been offered places at good salaries in several cities to take charge and run the business of the yard. He is a self-made man.

**W H. Bullitt** is well known to the citizens of Louisville. He has an appointment as Notary Public, and was, at one time, employed in the Post Office. He was the first and only colored soldier holding an appointment in the office, and has been identified with the colored man's interests.

**Mrs. Napoleon Bonaparte** is the first colored matron appointed for a city school. She has charge of the Eighth Ward School, and has filled this position for four years, and is highly esteemed by the officials and well liked by the pupils.

**Prof. Joseph S. Cotter** is a native of Nelson county, Kentucky. He attended the public schools of this city, and reached the third reader class, and because of the indigent circumstances of his parents he was forced to engage at hard, manual labor. There is no teacher within the walls of the Louisville schools who is more deserving. He is certainly self-made, and has climbed the ladder and struck the acme thus far reached in his life. His is an example for every young woman and man in Louisville who hopes to succeed. Little did I think that this boy, who was so humbly circumstanced, would now be at the head of one of our schools, commanding, by reason of his scholarly ability, the handsome salary of $125.00 per month, and he having stood shoulder to shoulder with the "heavy laden" of his race, and a writer of poetry, which would be recognized for its intrinsic worth, lyrical beauty and metrical quality. For several years poems, bearing his name, have been appearing in white and colored newspapers, and some have been set to music. He found an opportunity to attend night schools, and by hard study he secured the school at Cloverport. He continued his study, and, at last, was appointed to the lowest class in the city schools. He was promoted to the principalship of the Seventh and Ormsby school, and now has charge of the Eighth and Kentucky school with 635 pupils and eight teachers.

**William H. Davis** is the short-hand and type-writer for the Germania Trust and Security Vault Co. and German National Bank, corner First and Market streets. He is a graduate of the City High School. Several years ago he studied short-hand with a private teacher, and by diligent application he mastered the art. He taught the study in the city night school, which was quite beneficial to a number of young ladies and gentlemen.

**Rev. C. C. Bates** was born in Woodford county, this State. He was a member of the 123d Regiment, Company D., U. S. C. T., he served as corporal and sergeant of his company. He was honorably discharged, and, on his return, entered the Sunday School room and was a regular member. It was in this auxiliary of the church he



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learned his alphabet and how to put the letters together to form words, he became interested and gave all of his spare time to the study of his books. He shortly entered the ministry and was ordained a Baptist preacher, he pastored several churches, and at the time he was called to the Lampton-street Church was filling the pulpit at Watkinsville, Kentucky. When he took charge he found the church heavily involved with a debt of $3,000 which he succeeded in cancelling. The membership was 150 and now he has 1,580 on his church roll. He rebuilt the church in 1881, and under his ministration many improvements have been made. He is very popular with his congregation and well liked by the people in his neighborhood. He is a good preacher, an excellent pastor and financier. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the State University, and is Moderator of the State Baptist Association and is worth $3,000.

**Prof. Aaron H. Payne, Jr.,** was educated in the city, and taught for several years in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He was appointed principal of the Maiden Lane School two years ago. He has considerable ability and carries himself with much dignity becoming such person. He is a young man, and as a speaker has few equals, and would make a brilliant lawyer and a safe counsellor.

**C. B. Clay** conducts a tailoring business at 921 West Broadway. He learned the trade in Atlanta, Georgia, and has spent eleven years in this city, and, it is said, his wealth foots up $7,000, a part of this is in property in Georgia.

**Dr. A. J. Agnew** is our colored dentist, he is a graduate of the McHarry Dental College, Nashville, Tennessee. He is located at Tenth and Madison streets, and has quite a large practice. He has the reputation of being an excellent workman, and has added more confidence to our professional men's business, which is so greatly needed among our people.

**Edward Moore** is the only colored man in the city who follows piano and organ repairing. He was put at the trade when thirteen years of age, and has the reputation of being thoroughly acquainted with his business. He has been offered positions in Eastern and Northern houses at good salaries. At present he has charge of the repair shop of the J. P. Simmons & Co's piano house.

**Samuel Carter** is not so well known in the city, but came to Kentucky thirty-one years ago; he was born in Appomattox county, Va., in 1845, He served as body servant to Colonel Bridgans of the 69th Ohio, and at the close of the war came to Louisville. He, like a good many others, with but $50 in his pocket at an entertainment, glad of his freedom, expended all but $7. He found employment as a farm hand, and in 1882 he was engaged as the shepherd on Dr. Standford's farm, and in 1890 took charge of the flock at Cherokee Park. His grandmother was brought from Guina, Africa, and sold near Fonsville, Va., at her death she was ninety years old. His mother, Sofa, was sold down South in 1855, leaving her children behind, and it was reported his two sisters married and went to Liberia, Africa in 1869. Mr. Carter has an intelligent expression and converses on the current topics, and can read print quite well, which he says was taught him by friends at odd times. He practiced economy, and after saving as much as $300 began to deposit his money in bank. He has several houses in this city, property in Bloomington, Ind., and Florida, and recently purchased a farm, paying cash for it; he has money invested in stocks and bonds and has several shares in a gold mine. His wealth is estimated at $14,000. Mr. Carter says he has not earned, on an average, seventy-five cents a day. From his appearance one would not think him worth one cent. He claims to have lost all trace of his relatives, only heard from his mother twice, and she was reported dead at one writing. His aunt moved to Canada and bought property, but he has since misplaced her address. He is a bachelor, but says he will break his bachelor's tie in the spring of 1897 by taking unto himself a better-half.

**R. L. Anderson** is one of the most enterprising young men of the city. He started out several years ago without a cent, and he now has a little fortune of $7,000. He is the private messenger to Mr. W. B. Halderman, president of the *Courier-Journal* Company, and is quite a popular figure in the city.

**Napoleon Bonaparte** is well known to nearly all the school employees, he has been for thirty-three years sexton of the Methodist Church, Fifth and Walnut streets, and thirty-one years in the employ of the School Board. He had charge of



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the Female High School in 1865 and was transferred with the school officers to the Centre and Walnut street building in 1868. He is a prominent Mason, was a charter member of Keystone Lodge No. 3 and was its first treasurer; organized Unity Lodge of Masons in 1880, and elected its first master, and, after a period of several years, was re-elected master and served four consecutive years; was a charter member of Enterprise Chapter, elected and served two years as high priest, and was selected as the first treasurer of Cyrene Commandery, Knight Templers, and served two years as eminent commander. He was a member of the Council of the Grand Chapter for several years and elected deputy grand high priest; he assisted in the establishment of the Masonic State Grand Lodge in 1867, and was in the first organization of the Colored Orphans' Home, and has been connected, officially, with it since its organization. He was one of the champions for colored schools, and, with others, sent the first petition to the City Board of Education. The peculiarity of the matter was Mr. Bonaparte's duty was to see that the petitions were properly placed where they would come under the immediate notice of the Board. Much credit is due him for the very deep interest he manifested, he never tired in his efforts, he had the confidence of the members of the Board, and being on the inside, utilized every opportunity. He is very friendly disposed to young people and is their friend. Full of race pride, and that indomitable spirit, with talents, influence, time and means have not been sparingly given and not with a selfish motive, but freely. His word is always, "young men to the front," realizing the fact that the colored people's standing must be attained, if at all, by the rising generation. His work claims for him a select place in the hearts of every lover of the race.

**St. James A. M. E. Church**—This church, which is located on Fifteenth street near Broadway, does not exceed in age fifteen years. A dissatisfaction arose over the remodeling and building of the Asbury, and one faction rented the old tobacco warehouse on Thirteenth street, near Green, and started a church. They were led by Rev. John Coleman, who was pastor of Asbury Church at the time of the trouble. In a short while they left this place for more commodious quarters, finding shelter in the old church, which is now used as a blacksmith shop, on Green, below Ninth street. Upon the ground where the new church stands (Fifteenth street, near Broadway) was a small, old frame church, which had been purchased by Rev. Davis for a Baptist congregation. They remained there some time, paying some $600, and finally were forced to give it up. Then this congregation bargained for the property, agreeing to pay $1,000 for it. They secured possession, moved in, and occupied it until it was destroyed by fire in 1894. The new cottage church, with tower, has since been erected at a cost of $1,700 in which the congregation is now worshiping.

**Green-street Baptist Church**—The congregation of this church was formed on First street, between Market and Main, in a little frame house, in 1839 or 1840, with twenty-five persons. They worshipped in this place for more than a year, and then bought the house in which they are now worshiping from Father Buck, as he was addressed. The church had been previously used as a Baptist church. The Rev. George Wells, who was leading the flock on First street, still filled the pulpit. He continued working in the brickyards in the summer and the pork-houses in the winter. As one remarked: "I can see his hands as he raised them Heavenward, how they showed cuts and bruises." He died in 1850. The Rev. Charles Satchels, of Cincinnati, was next pastor, but he remained with the church here but a short time. He was a little too far advanced, educationally, and his congregation could not thoroughly appreciate him. The Rev. Orange Shanks was called by the church. He only served a short while, before he died. The church was then without a preacher, but in 1850, in the spring, the Rev. Richard Snethen took charge and remained until his death, April 11, 1872. The Rev. Dr. D. A. Gaddie was then called to the pastorate. The first clerk of the church was a white man, by the name of Mr. Cosby, in 1847. He was followed by Mr. W. Y. Clinton who was elected in 1849, being the first regular colored clerk. Brother Ben Drake was the first trustee, he lived to be 115 years old. The first Sunday School was organized in 1848 by Mr. Bulkley, a white man, who still lives in this city. The first Sunday School superintendent was Mr. James Reves. Mr. W. J. Davis joined the church in 1855 when he was ten years old, but being so young he was set aside one




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year. The first pastor was not, at first, given a salary, but was paid by the sisters knitting socks or making shirts, and at times several would get together and make pants and present them to their pastor.

**Lampton-street Baptist Church** was organized in 1866 by Rev. Spencer Taylor (who was a carpenter) between Preston and Jackson Breckinridge and Caldwell streets in an old carpenter shop, where meetings were held until they secured better quarters, a frame house was built on Caldwell between Preston and Jackson streets. The congregation was still lead by Rev. Spencer Taylor, who was unfortunately killed by some unknown parties while on his way to Bardstown, Ky. The next pastor was Rev. Phil Simcoe. He resigned, and the Rev. Milton Harris filled the pulpit for several years, until his salary was reduced, when he resigned. Prior to the calling of Rev. Milton Harris the Rev. Patterson was appointed from the Fifth-street Church to hold the congregation. The present brick building was erected in 1877, and many improvements have been made, new pews, elevated seats and pipe organ go to make the additions. The church is filled at the services. The present church deacons are: Robert White, Samuel Brown, George Nugent, Thomas Burks, Harrison Sloan. William Green, treasurer; A. W. Bullitt, clerk; Thomas Dorsey, superintendent Sunday School.

**Cavalry Baptist Church**, at Fifth and York streets, is pastored by one of the ablest men of his race in the State. This ground was bought before the war by a white gentleman, and given to the Baptists. A factional fight arose in Green-street Baptist Church and one faction of that congregation rented the church on Fifth and York streets from the Fifth-street congregation. As the building had been given for church purposes it was contended that Fifth-street Church had no claims and no right to collect rent for it. Therefore, the congregation permanently located under the leadership of Rev. Edward Brodie; he was followed by Rev. Charles Edwards, then Rev. John Buckner, who was there during the war. The Rev. Willis W. Taylor was called to pastor the church, and served until his death. At that time he was a member of Green-street Church and janitor of the Floyd and Chestnut street public school. During the fall of 1872, at which time the Rev. W. W. Taylor was in a good way preaching and the church was filled with people, the floor gave away, and sank about two feet, at a point where the column in the basement rested, being only supported by the flooring, which caused a great commotion. The congregation arose and rushed out pell-mell, pushing and falling over each other, and, in fact it is stated, that some persons deliberately walked over others who were down and could not get up, some jumped from the windows. Eleven persons were reported killed and died from the effects of injuries received during this accident. Had the people remained quiet and quietly withdrawn from the building no one would have received a hurt or a scratch. The news of the accident spread like wild-fire, and people from all the churches in the city hurried to the scene of the disaster. It required a large detachment of police to disperse the crowd, and a large number of people remained around the church all night. It was some years before this sad event was obliterated from the minds of the people. The Rev. Willis W. Taylor died in the year 1882. He was reckoned to be worth a good deal of property at his death. The church was rebuilt, and the walls made much stronger—double strength—and as a structure of this kind is sufficiently strong as long as people can crowd in; immense crowds gather to hear the talented Dr. Parrish discourse on the scriptures. The church was then known by the name of the York-street Baptist Church, but in October, 1883, a council was held at the Fifth-street Baptist Church, at which 111 members met, and, by motion, the letters of dismission were granted, and the York-street Church was then disbanded, and a new organization made by adoptng Calvary Baptist Church. The council was composed of Dr. T. T. Eaton, chairman; Revs. James H. Wright, J. W. Smith, A. Heath, C. H. Parrish, Dr. W. J. Simmons, and Brothers L. P. Garrett, Henry Wilson and S. Wells. The following officers were installed: William Starrs, Steve Williamson, John Parris, Tob Bostic, J. Smith, trustees; Edward J. Jackson, clerk: Charles Smith, treasurer; W. Carpenter, H. Prior, B. Burbridge, E. Palmer, Charles Smith, deacons. Rev. C. S. Dinkens was called, he resigned in 1885. Rev. C. H. Parrish accepted the call September 27, 1885.

**Zion Baptist Church**—Is a split from York-street Church in the spring of



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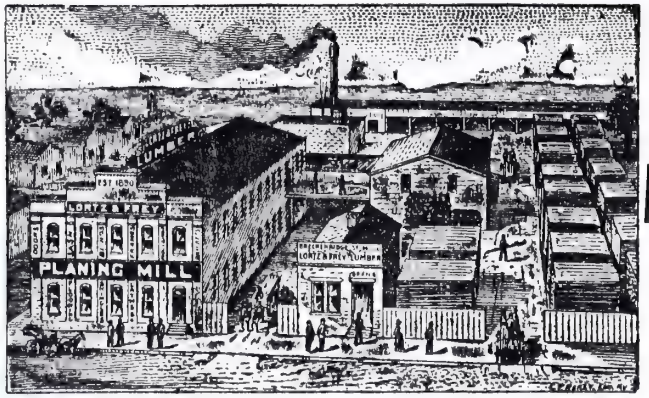

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1877. Eighteen memberf withdrew from the church and rented the old Smith Hall, which was then a part of the old Smith mill which stood at the Northeast corner of Preston and Broadway. The services were continued at this place, and in July, 1878, Dr. Burrows, of the Broadway Baptist Church, and Rev. Green, of the East Chestnut Baptist Church, organized the church. The place of meeting was given up, and the house on Ninth street near Broadway, now occupied by Wingfield's blacksmith shop, was used for church services; not being satisfied with this, the old brick church which stood opposite Centre street on Broadway, and had formerly been used as a carpenter shop and gymnasium, was rented. The congregation was preached to by various ministers, and Rev. Phil Alexander served as the first pastor, he was followed by Revs. Davis, M. M. Belle, Huffman, Scott and Jamison. The church membership continued to grow, and the present lot on Centre street was purchased and the foundation laid, and the corner stone laid by the Masonic fraternity March, 1882, July 9, 1882 the church was dedicated at 3 o'clock p. m. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. A. Heath. Brother Isaac Ledford said: "I was accused of leading the fights, but there were others, brothers John Woods, John Willis, Bench Welch and others who had an inteaest in the church as well as I." The church is in a prosperous condition, and has a large attendance at the services, the membership numbers 703. The church building is a good one, with stained glass and pipe organ. Rev. W. H. Craighead was called to fill the pulpit at the death of Rev. Jamison, he was born near West Point, Ky., and is a graduate of the State University from the collegiate department. He is a very promising young man and much of a pulpit orator. The following named persons are the deacons: Theo Hankins, chairman; J. Taylor, Robert Adkins, George McGill, Anthony Barrett, Riley Horn, S. Alexander. Thomas Barrett, treasurer; W. H. Lenord, clerk.

**Quinn Chapel**—The beginning of this church was on Main street about the year 1838. A white man, who owned a good deal of property, provided this place opposite the old Galt House, near Second street, and a church was started. The meetings were held up stairs, where Bishop Quinn, the first colored Bishop to visit Kentucky, was arrested from this place for holding meeting, but was subsequently released, the officer finding that he had the proper papers for conducting the meetings. The first pastor was Rev. John Johnson. The congregation succeeded in leasing a lot on Green, near Ninth street, and built a frame church. Rev. B. Parker was at this time the pastor. In 1848 they bought the ground for the present church on Walnut street and with eight oxen the frame church was drawn from Ninth and Green to Ninth and Walnut. Sevices were conducted there, and in 1850 the present brick church was started, and in 1854 it was dedicated by Bishop Paul Quinn and D. A. Payne. The first officers of Quinn Chapel (1838) were: Charles Smith, Lawson Hoffman, Robert Jackson, William Luckett. In 1847 among the officers were: Rev. Levi Evans, Henry Cozzens, Charles Bullock, Simon Frye. The first Sunday School was organized by Rev. Willis Revees in 1849. The first superintendent was W. H. Gibson. The church has been pastored by many noble and learned men, and at this writing Rev. Evans Tyree is filling his fifth year. He is an able and successful preacher.

**Twelfth-street A. M. E. Zion Church**—The congregation of this church formerly held services in the frame church on Fifteenth street, near Walnut. The increase in membership necessitated a much larger building, and the officers bought the Basken White Methodist Church on Twelfth street, near Jefferson, May, 1878, paying $3,000 for it. The original building, which was a two story brick, was put in a condition for occupancy by an outlay of $1,700, and the congregation was moved in. The trustees and members endeavored to sell the old Fifteenth-street property, from which they expected to realize a good sum to be placed to the payment for the Twelfth-street property, but the Bishop intervened and they were prevented, as some of the old members, who had assisted in building Fifteenth-street Church, desired that property to remain as it was, the first Zion church built in Kentncky. The General Conference was appealed to but the Bishop was sustained. When the great catastrophe struck Louisville, in March, 1890, the Twelfth-street Church was a victim, and was an entire wreck; building, organ and furniture suffered, and the congregation had no where (to lay its head) to shelter. The hall at Ninth and Magazine was rented and services were continued there. Then the old Merciful Savior Church, on Madison street near Tenth,




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was secured, and the congregation worshiped there. They again moved, holding service in Stephen's Hall, Tenth and Jefferson. They remained here until the first story of the new building, on the old site, was erected, and they moved in 1892 and have remained there ever since. The new building, when completed, will be a very fine one and the largest in the city. Messrs. Jackson Burks, L. H. Williams, Allen Briles and Henry Baker were some of the strong and influential men. The following pastors served the church: Revs. John Holliday (now Bishop), J. L. H. Sweres, A. Day, Smith Claiborne, J. B. Johnson, W. A. Forman, R. T. Anderson, L. Bloylock; and the Rev. R. Seymore is the present pastor who is laboring hard with the people to add the second story.

**Colored Ophans' Home**—Mr. Peter Lewis, an old and highly respected citizen who, by the Alwise Providence ceased his labors on earth, was the first to agitate the idea of an orphans' home for colored children. By the permission of Dr. Humphrey and the officers of the Second and College street Presbyterian Church, a meeting was held in the lecture room of the church in the spring of 1877. Those who were present at this meeting were: Dr. Humphrey, Mrs. Lou Morris, Mrs. Lizzie Morris, Mrs. Mahalia Guest, Mrs. Q. B. Jones; Messrs. Peter Lewis, Shelby Gillespie, Napoleon Bonaparte and Rev. J. R. Riley. After the object of the meeting was stated by Mr. Peter Lewis, a general discussion was entered into. Mr. Gillespie reported that he had secured the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, Second and Broadway, for the next meeting. The meeting was held one week hence, and the following persons were present: Dr. Stuart Robinson, Dr. Humphrey, Cols. Bennett H. Young and James W. Bowles, Mrs. Lou Morris, Mrs. Mahalia Guest, Mrs. Lizzie Morris, Mrs. Q. B. Jones; Messrs. Peter Lewis, Horace Morris, W. T. Peyton, M. Minnis, N. Bonaparte and S. Gillespie. Dr. Stuart Robinson acted as chairman and Horace Morris secretary. The idea of a colored orphans' home was heartily endorsed. Weekly meetings were then held in the various churches, and quite an interest was awakened in the minds of the colored people regarding an orphans' home. In July a permanent organization was perfected by the election of the following officers: Col. James W. Bowles, president; Madison Minnis, vice-president; Rev. John Heywood, treasurer; Horace Morris, recording secretary; Col. Bennett H. Young, corresponding secretary. During the mid-summer a mass meeting was held at Masonic Temple, and addresses were made by Judge Bullock, Dr. Stuart Robinson, Col. Bennett H. Young and others. A subscription list was opened at this meeting. At a subsequent meeting, the committee on place reported the old hospital of the Taylor Barricks, which then stood between Second and Third Oak and Ormsby streets; the place was accepted at $25 per month rent. Mrs. Jane McKamey was imployed as matron, and assumed charge January 12, 1878; the first iumate, Eliza Smith, was on the following Monday admitted. These quarters, not being well adapted for an institution of this kind, a place was rented on Twentieth between Market and Jefferson streets, and during the month of November, of the same year, this place was occupied as a home. Dr. Stuart Robinson not being satisfied with the place secured the present premises, and in May, 1879, the last moving was made. Dr. Stuart Robinson, who took an active part in the organization of the Home and who had put his whole soul in the work, with Col. Bennett H. Young organized, and had an Act passed by the Legislature incorporating the Colored Orphans' Home Aid Society. He started a subscription list, and some of our most prominent white citizens gave liberally to the fund. Receiving a donation from the American Bible Society the first payment was made on February 9, 1880, of $1,750, and shortly thereafter the balance of $1,750 was paid, making a total of $3,500. The property at that time consisted of a lot of three acres and a brick house of nine rooms. Dr. Robinson was a friend to the Home until his death, contributing his time and means for its support. Col. Bennett H. Young was elected as successor to Col. Jas. W. Bowles as president, and has been annually elected to fill this place. He is deeply interested in the welfare of this institution, and is at all times ready to guard its interests. He is one of Louisville's foremost and noble citizens and is untiring in his efforts for those bereft of proper guardians in this world. The following persons have served as vice-presidents: Madison Minnis, A. J. Catlin, Austin Hubbard, A. J. Bibb, Willis Adams, Mrs. Mary L. Mead, Prof. W. H. Perry, Rev. John Frank. Treasurers—Rev. John Heywood, Prof. John M. Maxwell. Secretaries—Horace Morris, C. F. Adams, J. H. Moody, Prof. W. H. Perry, A. G. Gilbert, Prof. F. L. Williams, and H. C. Weeden cor-



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responding secretary. The matrons were, Mrs. McKamey, Mrs. Woodson, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Waite. Mr. Bibb was one of the most interested vice-presidents of the Home, and he at all times worked hard for its success, and it was under his administration that the addition of four rooms to the building were made.

The Home is supported by contributions and the $6,500 endowment fund. Mrs. Joshua Speed gives annually $10, and Mrs. J. Lawrence Smith $25. Mr. George W. Brown collected, through letters given him by Col. Bennett H. Young, quite a handsome sum, and Mr. Wm. G. Meyer, at his death, gave $5,000, and Mr. Andrew Ferguson $100. Mr. J. A. Zimmerman in speaking to us a few days ago said: "Mr. Catlin called on me one day for a subscription to the Colored Orphans' Home, I made one, and requested him to call on Mr. Meyer, that he made an annual contribution to an orphans' home and I thought he would give him something. In a few days I met Mr. Meyer and told him I had sent Mr. Catlin to see him, he wanted to know where the Home was located. I told him. He said he would ride down there some day and see the place. I notified Mr. Catlin that he should speak to the matron and be on the lookout for him." Now, you see, I think my little information to Mr. Catlin about Mr. Meyer did good, at his death the Home got $5,000.

Th Ladies' Sewing Circle has been an important adjunct to the Home. It was organized in the fall of 1877 with the following officers: Mrs. Fannie Simmons, nee Pickett, president; Miss Bettie Heath, treasurer; Mrs. Maria Cotter, nee Cox, secretary. The Circle has added four rooms to the building, clothes the children, furnishes the bedding, towles, etc., and have, at times, paid matron's and the cook's salaries and gave assistance in many cases. Since its organization $2,572.82 has been raised, of which $700.05 was paid on the four additional rooms, and over $300 was paid by the Board. The Circle is very systematically conducted, the members pay a monthly fee of ten cents and they have a regular constitution and by-laws for their government. Two annual entertainments are arranged by the Circle, which are always financially successful, one on Thanksgiving day and the other in May or June. The ladies have a cash balance in their treasury. The number of inmates in the Home, at present, are eighteen. The present officers are: Mrs. Mamie E. Steward, president; Mrs. Rachel J. Harris, vice-president; Mrs. Julia B. McKinley, secretary, Miss R. D. Rodges, assistant secretary; Mrs. Mary Bullitt, treasurer. Executive Committe—Mrs. Frances Macauley, Mrs. Susan Johnson, Mrs. Sallie Clark.

The following are the present officers of the Home: Col. Bennett H. Young, president; J. J. C. McKinley, vice-president; Rev. J. H. Frank, treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Steward, secretary; G. A. Carter, assistant secretary. Directors—J. J. C McKinley, G. A. Carter, Mrs W. H. Bullitt, Mrs. M. E. Steward, George Murphy, W. H. Steward, Frank Gray, Napoleon Bonaparte, John Parrish, Miss Lucy Flint, H. T. Grainger, H. Wilson, Revs. John Frank, E. W. D. Jones, E. G. Harris. Matron—Mrs. Maize. The trustees, as named in the deed, were: Drs. Stuart Robinson, and J. H. Heywood, Messrs. J. F. Speed, Arthur Peter, T. T. Alexander F. D. Carley. The following is the Act passed by the Legislature incorporating the Colored Orphans' Home Aid Society, which was approved April 8, 1878.

CHAPTER 890.

*AN ACT to incorporate the Colored Orphans' Aid Association of the city of Louisville.*

WHEREAS, Certain benevolent persons in the city of Louisville have proposed to aid the colored people of that city in the establishment of a colored orphans' home, by a subscription of funds under a paper, in the following terms, viz: Whereas, a Colored Orphans' Home Society has been organized in this city, proposing to establish an asylum for colored orphan children; and said society, though supposed to be able to meet the current expenses of such an institution, is not able to purchase a property in which to conduct its operotions; now, therefore, we, the undersigned, with a view to give our colored people an opportunity to practice so noble a charity, do hereby agree and bind ourselves, under the conditions herein appended, to pay the sums set opposite our names respectively, and at the time designated, to John B. Temple and Bennett H. Young, toward the purchase of a property for the use of a Colored Orphans' Home. It is a condition of this subscription, first, that it be payable only after the sum of $5,000 shall be subscribed by reliable parties; second, that the subscription is considered to be in payment of stock; and the subscribers shall as stockholders, organize and appoint a board of trustees, in which board the title to the property shall vest and be



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held for the stockholders, though the use of the same shall be granted to the Colored Orphans' Home now organized, or other similar society, which shall maintain upon the property a reasonably extensive and efficient asylum for colored orphans, and shall keep the property in repair and sufficiently insured; third, such Colored Orphans' Home Society shall have the option to purchase the property at its original cost, with six per cent interest, within five years; and in case of a failure to maintain the colored asylum for orphans, and a failure to purchase, then the property shall be at the disposal of the stockholders, through their trustees; and whereas, the American Missionary Society, owning a certain property at the corner of Broadway and Fourteenth streets, Louisville, propose to appropriate one-third of the proceeds of sale of said property to the educational purposes of said Colored Orphans' Home; and in order to carry out these benevolent purposes, an act of incorporation is necessary; therefore,

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

§ 1. That Stuart Robinson, J. H. Heywood, Bennett H. Young, G. W. Henning, J. F. Speed, B. H. Bristow, James Bradley, J. K. Goodloe, W. B. Belknap, G. W. Norton, F. P. Schmitt, Arthur Peter, N. Bloom, L. Bamberger, T. T. Alexander, J. G. Barrett, Wm. H. Byers, Benj. F. Avery, and their associates and successors, be, and they hereby are, created a body-politic, under the name and style of the Colored Orphans' Aid Association of Louisville, with power to sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with; to hold and dispose of all real estate necessary for the purposes of maintaining a colored orphonage in the city of Louisville, Kentucky: *Provided*, No such asylum be located nearer than six hundred feet to any private residence in said city. It may receive gifts and bequests or devises of property, and do all other acts proper and necessary to support and carry on said enterprise; and may have a common seal, renewable or alterable at pleasure.

§ 2. The affairs of said corporation shall be managed by a board of trustees of not less than five nor more than nine members, to be chosen by the subscribers of the stock, who, after the first election, shall be elected on the third Monday in January each year, but in case of failure to elect, then those trustees elected the previous year, shall continue in office till their successors are elected. The said board shall elect of their number a president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall also be the president, secretary, and treasurer of the association; and it shall be lawful for the treasurer of the board to act also as treasurer of the Colored Orphans' Home Society, shall have the same authority, and the same responsibility, in regard to collecting, holding, and disbursing the funds of said society as in regard to the Orphan's Aid Association; and the board of trustees may ordain and declare such other officers as they may deem necessary for the proper management of the business of the association.

§ 3. The stock of said corporation shall be not less than twenty nor more than one thousand shares of fifty dollars each, and the property upon which the said orphan asylum may be situated shall not be subject to taxation, State or municipal; and said corporation may proceed to do business when twenty shares of said stock shall have been paid in.

§ 4. The board of trustees shall have power to provide by special contract with the said American Missionary Association for its aid toward said object, and for a first lien upon the property, real and personal, of the said trustees, to the extent of its stock at par value; and the said American Missionary Association, waiving its right to control, or take part in the management of said orphan asylum by virture of the stock subscribed by it, shall not of itself, or by its stock, be subject to any responsibility, charge, or assessment whatsoever, by reason of holding such stock; and the said special contract may provide, that in case of the failure of said trustees to maintain an educational asylum for colored orphans, or in case the property of the said trustees be sold or diverted to any other purpose, the said American Missionary Association may enforce its lien and the priority thereof, as hereinbefore set out.

§ 5. The Colored Orphans' Aid Association, if it fails to make the arrangements to carry on said asylum or orphanage for colored children with the American Missionary Association, may maintain said orphanage or asylum without said aid, and so long as this is done said fund or property shall remain intact in the subscribers.

§ 6. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

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LOUISVILLE, KY.

Has always on Hand the best Groceries, Vegetables and Meats. Goods promptly Delivered in any Part of the City, and Orders called for

"QUICK SALES AND SMALL PROFITS IS OUR MOTTO" GIVE US A CALL.

EDWARD HANSBERRY, Manager.

Wanted Rain! For Umbrellas Etc.,

—GO TO—

245 West Jefferson Street,

Repairing and Recovering. Between 2d and 3d.

J. H. TAYLOR,

Undertaker and Embalmer,

No. 610 Ninth Street, Louisville, Ky.

IS PREPARED TO FURNISH ALL CLASS OF

Coffins, Caskets and Schrouds of all Kinds,

First Class Carriage always on hand for Hire. TELEPHONE 1243-2.

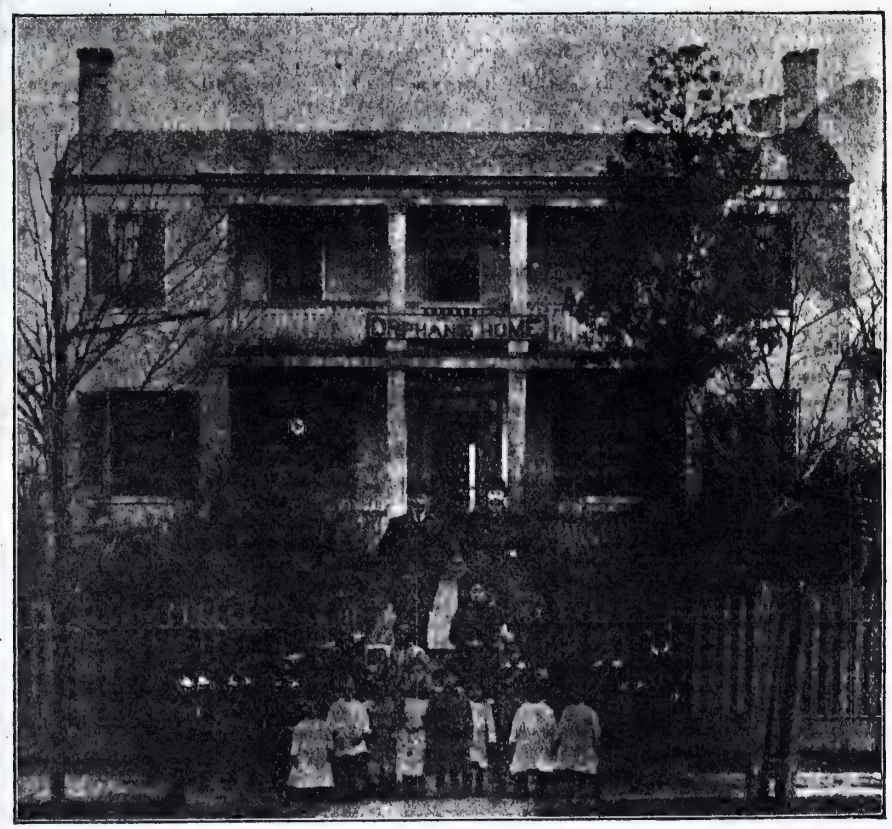
zens met and discussed the question, which resulted in an organization and the election of the following officers, etc.: Isaac Curtis, president; George W. Martin, vice-president; L. N. Nelson, secretary; James Brown, treasurer. W. H. Ward, G. Garrett, Horace Moore, Wm. Weisiger, J. Adams, Theo Hankins and James Thompson were made directors. The meetings were continued for several years and the treasury was increased. A purchase of property was made in Portland, and the first payment was made. The place was put in order and the doors opened. When the first notes fell due they could not be paid, and the mortgage was foreclosed. The Board then rented the building, and finally moved into new quarters on Tenth street, near Walnut. A new board of directors was elected and set to work. Through its efforts, assisted by the Ladies' Auxiliary, $500 was raised and paid on a place in Parkland, the purchase price being $2,750. The inmates were moved into this building in the fall, and the new house was dedicated." It is situated on Greenwood avenue, between Thirty-first and Thirty-second streets. They have an acre of ground, a two-story frame house with seven rooms, and a small building on back of lot which can be put in good order for a small amount. There are seven females and three males in the Home, and applications for several moore. The affairs of the Home are in excellent condition, and the public is awake to duty. The following officers were elected January 19, 1896: James Ball, president; Mrs. Maggie Frye, vice-president; Samuel W. Jordan, secretary; Miss Eliza Guthrie, treasurer; I. N. Burnett, chaplain. Board of Directors: Mrs. S. W. Jordan, George W. Ferguson, Wm. Phelps, Julius Thompson, David Palmer, J. L V. Washington, W. H. Perry. Ladies' Auxiliary: Mrs. S. W. Jordan, president; Mrs. Maggie Frye, Miss Georgia Moore and Mrs. Annie Garrett vice-presidents; Mrs. L. J. Gibson, secretary; Mrs. M. C. Ferguson, treasurer. The Old Folk's Home was organized and incorporated March, 1887.

**Auxiliary Hospital**—The Auxiliary Hospital was established in this city in 1895. A very desirable two-story, double brick house on Green street, near Eleventh, was purchased It is a necessary adjunct to the Louisville National Medical College, and is under the control of the faculty. It has been of benefit to the poor of the city who get attention and medicines. Mr. McCurdy is steward, and is an experienced one, Dr. Sarah H. Fitzbutler is matron.

**United Fellows' Lodge**—The first lodge of colored men in the State of Kentucky was organized about 1844. The first constitution and by-laws were adopted February 20, 1845; amended December 21, 1849; remodeled February 15, 1856, and again revised in 1866. It was a benevolent society, and an entrance fee of $1.00 was charged and monthly dues of 25 cents. Its first officers were: Rev. Henry Henderson, president; George Bartley, vice-president; Abraham Munworth, secretary; Daniel Henry, treasurer; John Thomas, chairman sick committee. The present lodge is in existence, but was converted into an Odd Fellows lodge, and still bears the original name, "United Fellows."

**United Brothers of Friendship**—The beginning of this order was through the meeting of a band of men who, in 1861, met in the alley between Second and Third and Market and Jefferson streets in the house of Mrs. Nancy Taylor. It was at the time when our people were not allowed out later at night than 10 o'clock carrying a "pass" from their masters. On various occasions the men were forced to remain out at night for fear of being arrested on account of not adjourning in time. They first organized as a benevolent society. The men who composed the lodge were Messrs. M. W. Taylor, W. N. Hazelton, C. B. Morgan, John F. Page, Benjamin Carter, W. H. Lawson, W. T. Lewis, David Yancey and others. They continued to meet at this place until 1862, and for two years they met at different places. In 1865 they secured Centre-street Church as a permanent place, and in 1866-7 Fifth-street Baptist Church was their meeting place. In 1868 they moved to Quinn Chapel. It was in this year that they drafted a charter, and was the first colored body to be chartered by the Kentucky State Legislature. A hall was then rented on Green street, between Third and Fourth avenues, and the membership increased rapidly, and the opening of new lodges, and a State Lodge was organized with Mr. Wm. H. Gibson as the first State Grand Master. The order continued to grow until it spread throughout the United States, Canada and the West Indies, and it was necessary to organize a National Grand Lodge. The entire number reaches the thousands, and are composed of lodges, ladies' temples, camps






**COLORED ORPHANS' HOME, 18th and Dumesnil Sts.**

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT—COL. BENNETT H. YOUNG. VICE-PRESIDENT J. J. C. MCKINLEY.
SECRETARY—MRS. M. E. STEWARD. ASSISTANT SEC'Y—G A CARTER.
TREASURER—REV. J. H. FRANK.

DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. J. C. McKinley. | Napoleon Bonaparte. | George Murphy. |
| G. A. Carter. | W. H. Steward, | John Parrish. |
| H. T. Grainger. | Frank Gray, | Mrs. M. E. Steward. |
| H. Wilson. | Miss Lucy Flint. | Mrs. W. H. Bullitt. |
| Rev. J. H. Frank. | Rev. E. D. W. Jones. | Rev. E G. Harris. |

(the uniform rank), and juvenile lodges, temples and camps. There are in this city eleven lodges, twelve temples, three camps and several juvenile lodges and temples with a membership exceeding 2,000. The hall at Ninth and Magazine streets was purchased some years ago at a cost of $8,000 and has had several thousand dollars improvements put on it. They have also a Widows' and Orphans' Home, at Brook's Station, Kentucky, with 124 acres of land and comfortable buildings.

**Freedman's Bank**—No doubt many a soul is made sad at the utterance of the name of this defunct institution, but should we stop for every mishap and reverse in life we will make but a short distance and accomplish nothing. We admit that the suspension of this banking institution discouraged many to save and waste their means, but being extravagant with their earnings does not "right the wrong" or make up the losses. That this bank did much to inculcate in our people the spirit of frugality the weekly deposits made by them in the forty-odd banks attest. Notwithstanding the failure of the bank many continued to lay aside their dimes and found other banks to place their money on deposit, and to-day the 8,000,000 colored people in the United States are worth millions in money, property, stocks and bonds. The bank was put in operation in 1865, and shortly a branch was established in Louisville. The first cashiers were white men, Dr. Goddard, Colonel Porter and Mr. H. H. Burkholder. Mr. Horace Morris was then elected, he being the first colored cashier in the local bank. During the period, from 1866 to 1874 the date of the suspension, the deposits exceeded $3,000,000, and it is claimed there were in the neighborhood of 3,000 depositors with $130,000 in the vault. The depositors have been paid 60% and there is reason to believe the full amount will yet be paid. Hon. Fred Douglass was president when the failure came. The following named gentlemen were the directors of the local Freedman's Bank: Rev. Richard Sneathen, Rev. Henry Adams, Wash Spradling, James Speed, Jesse Meriwether, Wm. B. Belknap, Edgar Needham, Judge Bland Ballard, Colonel R. M. Kelly, Rev. John Heywood and J. C. N. Fowles.

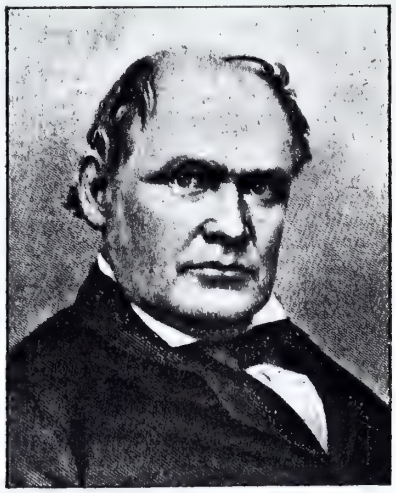
**Smoketown**—In 1866 the colored people began to lease lots and build houses on Breckinridge street, from Preston to Jackson and Jackson to Caldwell and back to Preston. One passing through any one of these streets on a bright day would come in contact with children and nothing but children. The houses were not the finest but furnished a neat appearance. The people had implicit confidence in each other in those days. The war was over and every one *free and equal.* Moses Hundley and Mr. Ballard were the leaders and spokesmen for the inhabitants of Smoketown, and their commands were headed. At the expiration of the leases our people were in a worse condition than before, their money had been spent and the only thing was to begin anew. Hundreds of dollars had been wasted, not intentionally, but unfortunately. Thus ended the first blow.

**New Eureka Grocery Company**—This company was organized August, 1891, and a successful business has been carried on at the corner of Madison and West streets. A $100 stock was first placed in, and since then they have been able to carry a $1,000 stock with a delivery. The first officers were: John Gaddie, president: J. Hocker, vice-president; J. Perkins, treasurer: M. N. Yancey, secretary; Edward Hansberry, general manager. The present officers are: Joseph H. Nunn, president: J. Lair, vice-president; Julius Perkins, treasurer; J. King, secretary; Edward Hansberry, general manager Miss Johnson is the clerk, and has been with the company since its start. The company, at present, is in good shape, and contemplates increasing its stock in the spring.

**Drug Store**—In 1895 Mr. Williams, a graduate from the School of Pharmacy at McHarry College, came to Louisville and with others formed a company to establish a drug store to be conducted by colored men. In October, 1895, the store was opened and put under the management of Dr. E. D. Whedbee. The store is situated on the corner of Tenth and Madison streets. They do a good business, and a large number of prescriptions are filled for the people from all parts of the city. The store is still under the management of Dr. Wedbee.

**Pipe Organs**—There are more pipe organs in the colored churches in Louisville than any other one city in the Union. The placing of a single reed-organ was not countenanced by congregations years ago, and on one occasion the members of a congregation became very indignant at Mr. W. H. Gibson, Sr., who had placed a little





REV. STUART ROBINSON, D.D.

Who collected the money to purchase property for the Colored Orphans' Home, and was prominently connected with it until his death.

melodeon in the Quinn Chapel. In 1854 he was called to Lexington, Ky., to look after a music class, and on his return he found the music-box under the steps of the church. He prevailed upon the members of the church and was allowed to set it (the devil as they termed it) in the church. Now, the smallest church in the city can't get along well without an instrument, and, in fact, several of the churches have had their choirs supported by the cornet. This marks thirty years advancement. The first pipe-organ placed in a colored church was in the Asbury Chapel in the year 1874, then the organ used by the Twelfth-street A. M. E. Zion Church was placed in the Fifteenth-street A. M. E. Zion Church. Now, we find Fifth-street Baptist Church, Green-street Baptist Church, Jacob street Tabernacle, Quinn's Chapel, Lampton-street Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, and the Merciful Savior using pipe-organs

## THE PROGREESSIVE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

(INCORPORATED.)

This Association was organized temporarly October 17, 1895, and permanently organized and incorporated December 29, 1896. G. A. Carter, chief mechanic; Jessie Taylor, assistant chief mechanic: William Smith, Secretary. Incorporators and Board of Directors—G. A. Carter, Jessie Taylor, James H. Butcher, N. Bonaparte, S. Q. Woodson, William H. Smith, W. A. Kenzer, John W. Owens.

The object of this Association, as its name implies and as set forth in our Article of Incorporation, is to combine in a systematic and legitimate way the colored citizens of this city and State that we may by united efforts, with a very small outlay of money, (per capita) raise a grand capital of $10,000 to erect, equip and install with the very best modern machinery a manufacturing enterprise, in which can be manufactured shoes, stoves, cooking utensils, furniture, or any other manufactured article or implement, that the Association may from time to time determine.

The chief object of this organization is to open up an avenue to modern industry in which the colored youth may freely enter and receive manual training, and, especi-

ally employment, and to foster and encourage industry among our people. Believing, as we do, that these desirable conditions of affairs can be brought about in this manner without in any way interferingwith our Caucasian fellow-citizen similarly engaged. And, as the cause for which we labor is not a selfish one, we feel free to appeal to every good and true citizen, who recognize the philanthropy of this movement, and who desires to see the moral status of our cherished metropolis elevated and the criminal dockets of our tribunals decreased, and an unfortunate, misguided and defenseless class of our fellow-citizens set aright, to lend us your influence in this, our earnest effort to become really useful citizens and to wipe out the main cause (idleness) of the many crimes committed by our young men and women. And that we might profit by the example of industry and thrift set us by our industrious Caucasian fellow-citizens.

To our brothers in misfortune we entreat you to come and join with us in this noble labor. We need your presence, your counsel and your purse. This is a task we can all zealously undertake, for we shall all be sharers in the glory and prosperity of our united labor when success attends our laudable efforts. The terms upon which you can become a member of this organization are made as low as possible, so that none may have an excuse for remaining idle while our posterity drift helpless direlects (before our very eyes) upon the broad sea of commerce to the great whirlpool of certain destruction. It is a sacred duty you owe to posterity to give this movement your hearty support, as it is the greatest and only movement of its kind ever attempted by our people in the history of our Commonwealth, and will in no wise interfere with your duties to any other bodies that you might be connected with. Feeling assured that you realize the loftiness of our pupose we must say that furthermore it is a sacred duty you owe the immortal Lincoln and a host of other true friends of humanity whose deeds of valor cost them their lives. You should be eager to demonstrate the fact that their blood was not shed in vain, and that we are capable of cultivating to the highest degree these principles of the American people. You can not, my dear reader, afford to be indifferent to this appeal, your conscience, no doubt, has already admitted the axiomity of these great truths, and if you persist to languish in lethargy, while there is such a broad field for activity, you but demonstrate the fact that we are a race of drones, too inert, to ever become industrious, progressive American citizens, and can never expect our children, with all of their boasted learning, to be more than chronic criminals and a loathsome incumbrance upon decent society.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

As the amount of capital we propose to raise is $10.000, divided into shares of $1.00 each, it will be readily seen that we want a membership of 10,000 persons, or its equivalent. To facilitate this we have classified our stock as full and prefered members. A full member is he or she who holds one share and has paid 50c to incidental fund. A prefered member is he or she who holds two or more shares and has paid 50c to the incidental fund. Each share entitles the holder to a vote. The purpose of the incidental fund is to defray the expenses of thoroughly canvassing the city and State and arousing an interest in this movement among the colored people, there being no other expense attached to the order other than what is levied by special tax. Each tax must be levied by a majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.

Hoping that every self-respecting colored man or woman, who desires to see the race prosper, will enlist and labor with us.

We are respectfully yours,

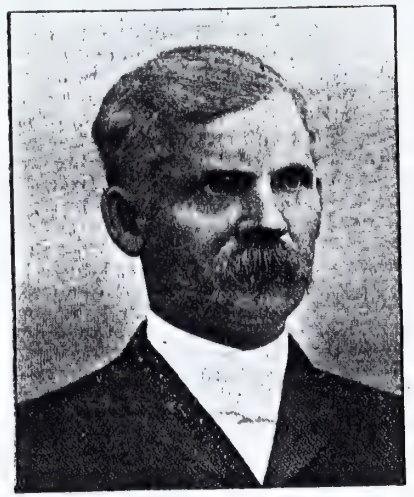
THE PROGRESSIVE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

G. A. Carter, Chief Mechanic, 1513 Harney street; Jessie Taylor, Assistant Chief Mechanic, 1512 Harney street; William H. Smith, Secretary.

Meetings—First Monday night in each month at Y. M. C. A. rooms Walnut, near Tenth street.

**Schools**—That the education of the youth, both white and black, is of vital importance to the welfare of this Nation is an undisputed fact. The power of education has been exemplified through all ages, and it stands first and foremost of all agencies which dispells ignorance, dismisses that despicable yoke of superstition and illiteracy, and produces happiness, refinement, and intelligence. It is the great lever of progress, and has been verified in the liberation of the slaves, which gave to man the opportunity to develope his ingenuity, and how true then were the words of the





COL. BENNETT H. YOUNG,

President, Colored Orphans' Home, for 19 years.

illustrious and immortal Sumner, when he said: "Without knowledge there can be no progress." The colored people have shown much eagerness to acquire some learning, and have practiced many devices to learn their letters, some receiving their knowledge from the dusty road as a blackboard, by having some of their white friends level the dust and mark the alphabet, some remained up all night seeking knowledge, and many were benefited by the Sunday Schools.

Schools for colored children were in operation in this city in the early forties. Rev. Henry Adams and Mr. Robert Lane were among the early teachers. The latter operated a school on White-front row, which was then on East street, between Chestnut and Walnut streets. Schools were also conducted by Revs. Peter Booth and Henry Henderson and Mr. Sites. In 1847, Mr. William H. Gibson, Sr., came from Baltimore to Louisville and assisted Mr. Robert Lane in his school. He shortly established a school of his own at the corner of Fourth and Green streets, in the Colored Methodist Church, which was largely attended, the establishment of which nearly absorbed the others. These schools, which were taught many years before the war, were operated by the permission of the local authorities. There were a good many free people in Louisville, consequently a good many free children: however, many of the slaveholders permitted, and, in fact, a large number sent the slave children to the schools. These schools were run until the war, after the war schools were located and maintained by many of the religious denominations. A very large night school was conducted by Mr. C. H. Pickens, at one time he had as many as 500 names on his roll. An old lady, by the name of Sister Pendy, conducted a school on Baptist Row, she had some two or three hundred scholars, and, it is said, she could only spell. Many private schools, both day and night, were taught in the city.

After the close of the war a committee, composed of Messrs. Peter Lewis, Horace Morris, Jackson Burks and others, through General Ely, petitioned the Government and secured assistance to establish a school. The American Missionary Society, of New York, joined in this undertaking, and a two-story brick building of eight rooms was erected at the Northwest corner of Fourteenth and Broadway. The school was put in operation by the employment of white teachers from the North, with Prof. Pope as principal, and was known as the Ely Normal School. This was quite en-

couraging and the attendance was very large, at that time this being the only free school in the city. This did not satisfy the leading citizens, and appeals were made to the local School Board for the establishment of city free schools for colored children. Petition after petition was sent the Board, but no cognizance was taken of them. At a meeting of the Board, April 4, 1870, a petition signed by Marshall Woodson and others was presented and read, which greatly impressed the Board. On Mondy, August 15, 1870, Messrs. Wm. Kendrick, Wm. Drysdale, John D. Pope, Dr. F. C. Leber and Dr. W. F. Miller were appointed a committee on colored schools. At a meeting of the Board, held Thursday, September 22, 1870, the following resolution was presented by Mr. J. D. Pope, chairman of the committee on colored schools, which was adopted: "To the Board of Trustees—Your Committee on Colored Schools respectfully report, that to the best information they have been able to get, the amount of city school taxes paid, and to be paid, by the people of African race in the city for the years 1866-7-8-9 and '70 is $3,899.32, which, together with $729.53 due the colored people from the State, amounting altogether to $4,628.85, we recommend shall be placed to the credit of colored school fund. We recommend further, that on the first of October two schools for the colored people shall be opened, one in the Center-street African Methodist Church and one in the Fifth-street African Baptist Church, and as soon thereafter as a suitable place can be obtained, another school shall be opened, making three in all. That in each of these three schools three teachers shall be employed, one who shall be principal, at a salary of $40 per month, one other at $30, and the other at $25, and that toward defraying the expenses of these schools for this school year $3,500 be appropriated."

On October 3, 1870, the colored school committee, through Mr. Pope, chairman, presented the following lists of teachers, which were confirmed: Fifth-street Baptist Church—Susie Adams, principal; E. C. Green, Ada Miller; Center-street Church—Lottie Adams, principal; Martha A. Morton, Mrs. Julia Arthur. Third school not designated, but Jackson-street Church was selected—Mrs. E. Stansberry, principal; Florence Murrow (white), Mrs. Mary A. Johnson. The number of pupils enrolled during the year was 712; average number belonging, 573; average daily attendance, 512; average number of pupils to the teacher, 57. The schools were known by No. 1, 2 and 3. The cost of each was: School No. 1, salaries, $940.53. incidental expense, $157.45; No. 2, salaries, $900, incidental, $157.45; No. 3, salaries, $830.20, incidental, $142.45. The Board provided for a colored Board of Visitors, on July 17, 1871, Mr. J. D. Pope, chairman colored school committe, presented the following named gentlemen as the first colored Board, which was received: Horace Morris, Marshall Woodson, Jesse Merriwether, G. W. Brown, Washington Watson, A. J. Bibb, Napoleon Bonaparte, John Morris, J. R. Riley. During this session of the Board Mr. Philip Speed moved that the music teachers be directed to give one hour each week in colored schools. The schools were conducted in the basements of these three churches two school terms, the progress of the children was as good as could be expected considering the unfavorable circumstances in which they were placed.

On November 6, 1871, Mr. J. D. Pope, who was the champion of the colored school question, offered a resolution, which was adopted, that a special committee of three be appointed to wait on the General Council to have the city charter amended by the Legislature so that all taxes paid by colored tax-payers go to the education of the colored people for five years. The committee reported back December 4, 1871, detailing the Council's action and reviewing the Mayor's veto. The committee reported as follows:

"*To the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools:*

"GENTLEMEN: The committee appointed at the last meeting of this Board to petition the General Council on the subject of Colored Schools ask leave to report:

"That the General Council passed a resolution in exact accordance with the prayer of the petition, which was vetoed by the honorable Mayor at the last meeting of the Council.

"There are two points in the message of the Mayor which it seems to your committee should not go unnoticed. The one is the annual cost per pupil in the Public Schools, and the other, that the action asked may set a bad precedent and open the door to sectarian demands. As to the first, His Honor estimates the cost as being $36.75 per annum for each pupil. The statistics of the schools, which are open at all times to the Mayor as well as all other citizens, show that for the year 1868-69 the cost

COL. JAMES W. BOWLES,

First President, Colored Orphans' Home.

was $18.61, the year 1869-70 the cost was $19.46, and the year 1870-71 the cost will be, as estimated by the enrollment at the present time, $20.23. This discrepancy is very apparent, and needs nothing more on our part than to be pointed out.

"As to the precedent which this action might set, there never has been exactly such a case presented, and perhaps never may within the life-time of the youngest child in our city. There is no sect, no denomination of people, except those of color, who are debarred the Public Schools. The doors of all the schools are open to the children of all white citizens, and if they do not choose to avail themselves of the privileges thus given, it is not the fault of the law establishing the Public Schools, nor of the schools themselves. Such persons have none to blame but themselves. Not so, however, with the colored race. Certainly none need the advantages of education more than they, and none are debarred the privileges but they.

"Respectfully,

"PHILIP SPEED,
"L. L. WARREN,
"C. O. SMITH."

On June 3, 1872, Mr. J. D. Pope moved that the school building, Fourteenth and Broadway, be rented, at $900 per year, for colored schools to be opened September 1, 1872. This building was not centrally located, but it was believed that the improved facilities for classifying pupils and other advantages to be derived from the convenience of the building would compensate, in a great measure, for the long distance some of the children traveled to attend, as all the schools were to be transfered to this building. Prof. Joseph M. Fergurson, of Cincinnati, was employed as principal of the school, at a salary of $500, with the following assistants: Lottie Adams, $400; Florence Murrow (white), $350; Elvira C. Green, $300; Jesse Davis, $300; Mary C. Baker, $250; Mary Washington, $250; Alice Woodson, $250. The members of the Board became more interested in the education of the colored children, and on August 5, 1872, Mr. B. F. Camp, committee on colored schools, moved that a building, at Campbell and Chestnut, be secured at a rental of $650 per year. The people showed much avidity to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them by the establishment of the schools, and the Board soon found it necessary to open the Campbell and Chestnut street building, which they did by appointing Mr. Wyatt N. Stewart, an Ohioian, principal, at a salary

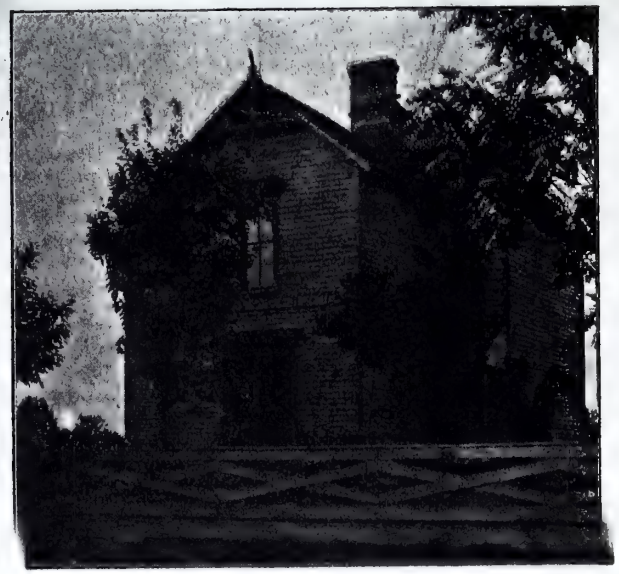
of $500 per year, with three assistants at $400, $350 and $300, each, per year. These two schools soon became crowded, and the Board set to work to provide an additional building in the central part of the city. January, 6, 1873, by a resolution offered by Mr. J. J. T. Murray, a special committee composed of Messrs. B. F. Camp, L. L. Warren and J. J. T. Murry were appointed to wait upon the Legislature, and to have it provide for raising greater funds for colored schools. On February 3, 1873, Mr. B. F. Camp, from the special committee, reported the passage of an Act by the Legislature releasing the School Board from the payment of the $64,000 of bonds due the Sinking Fund, directing that the money be expended in the purchase of three lots and the erection of three houses. This was a happy victory, and the Board erected the first colored city school at Sixth and Kentucky streets, at a cost of $32,000; the building was supplied with furniture of the most approved character, and it was said to be the handsomest and best arranged building for colored children in the country at that time. The doors were thrown open in October, 1873, and Prof. Wareing was the principal in charge. People from all parts of the city paid a visit to the building and left a word of praise for the members of the School Board. Mr. George H. Tingley, Superintendent Public Schools, who had used his influence for colored schools, said: "The colored people of this city, as a class, are poor, and can not afford to send their children to private schools. They need their services as soon as they are able to earn anything, and their school life is necessarily of short duration. If a sufficient number of buildings, conveniently located, are not provided, it is evident that a large number will be deprived of the benefits of even a limited education, which they so greatly need and which they are so eager to acquire." Mr. B. F. Camp, who was at that time President of the Board and who was deeply interested in the colored schools and worked so assiduously for them, in his report had this to say: "This Board at first rented so one school in Broadway and Fourteenth streets, which was soon filled; then another on Chestnut and Campbell streets in a private house rented, so that the pupils of the eastern part of the city might not have so far to go, and this year, besides retaining these two schools, we have erected one of the largest and most comfortable school-houses in the country, in the central part of the city, on the corner of Sixth and Kentucky streets, which will doubtless soon be filled; and we have also rented a small house in Portland for the convenience of the colored of that suburb. The patience with which our colored citizens awaited the slow process of procuring them educational facilities is worthy of all praise; and the intelligence, self-deniel, and perseverance with which they are seeking to improve their minds and add to their scholarship should, and no doubt will, reap their reward in the near future."

There were many drawbacks under the school law in these times, and it was quite surprising to many to see what was accomplished. The members of the Board who were formest in the advocacy of the colored school interests merited the gratitude extended to them by the colored citizens who very highly appreciated their efforts. Our schools equal any in the country, and the time is not far distant when we will have a Normal department, Manual Training School for boys, and female as well as male teachers in the High School department. At the inception of the public schools in this city, October, 1870, they started out with nine teachers, 712 pupils enrolled during the year, no buildings, with an annual cost of about $3,500; we have now nine buildings, 103 teachers, whose salaries exceed $7,000 per month; ten teachers in night schools; 5,411 day pupils and 435 night pupils. The Colored High School was established in 1882, the first commencement was held at Library Hall, there were seven graduates; during the fourteen years of the establishment of the High School the whole number of graduates foot up 168. There are 106 rooms in the nine buildings, and sittings for 5,519 pupils. Jackson and Breckinridge streets school is the only one heated by steam. Nearly all the teachers employed in our schools are our home boys and girls. The following are dates and cost of buildings erected for the accommodation of colored children: Central, 1873, $32,000; Jackson and Breckinridge, 1874, $13,500; Western, 1875, $28,500; California, 1882, $15,000; Main Street, 1884, $20,000; Maiden Lane, 1890, $4,509; Portland, 1891, $2,500; Eighth and Kentucky, 1896, $12,000; the following additions have been made: Eastern, $20,086.76; Portland, $693.50; Main Street, $621.25; total, $149,410.51.

SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

The Legislature passed an Act, February 24, 1874, imposing a taxation upon the property of the colored people to be devoted to a common school system for colored





**St. James Old Folks' Home,**

Greenwood Avenue, Between 31st and 32nd.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT—JAMES BALL. VICE PRESIDENT—MISS NELLIE L. FREY.
TREASURER—MISS ELIZA GUTHRIE. SECRETARY—S. W. JORDAN.
ASSISTANT SEC'Y—MISS ANNA M. BOWMAN. CHAPLIN—DAVID PALMER.

DIRECTORS:

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| JAMES BALL. | MISS NELLIE L. FREY. | S. W. JORDAN. |
| MISS ELIZA GUTHRIE. | MISS ANNA M. BOWMAN. | DAVID PALMER. |
| MRS. K. W. JORDAN. | J. L. V. WASHINGTON. | WM. PHELPS. |
| W. H. PERRY. | JULIUS THOMPSON. | A. W. WILLIAMS. |
| | G. W. FERGUSON. | J. H. SMITH. |

children. A census of the colored children was taken by the commissioners, reporting 37,414 scholars: the amount of the school fund was $18,707, which made the per capita fifty cents. Each succeeding year the report exhibited an increase in the scholars, and the per capita did not at any time exceed fifty-eight cents up to 1882, consequently the school term was of short duration and only poor teachers.

In the case of the sheriff of Bullitt county, who had collected in 1880 $154.28 taxes from colored people in accordance with the Act of February 24, 1874, the case was appealed. Judge Joseph H. Lewis, of the Court of Appeals at the January term, 1885, in affirming the appeal of Dawson, said: "That the State tax for common school system should be provided for by the General Laws, applicable to all classes and races alike. And that all the children of the State are entitled to an equal share of the proceeds of the Common School Fund, and of all State taxation for purposes of education." This decision of Judge Joseph H. Lewis made many glad souls. The school facilities were improved, competent and capable teachers employed, and the per capita raised from 58 cents to $1.30, the colored school fund from $37,216, in 1882, to

$113,932 in 1883. Number of children of school age, in 1896, 82,018 in the rural districts, and from cities, 31,476: total, 113,494: teachers in rural districts, 1,150; and in the neighborhood of 250 teachers in the city. The per capita for 1896 was $2.20.

**The Industrial School of Reform**—The Industrial School of Reform was known, until a few years ago, as the "House of Refuge," but has since been changed because of the good it is destined to accomplished, and the name is more applicable to the character of the institution. Many of our people are unmindful of the intent and purpose of the school, they rather regard it as a prison for boys and girls, and not where the unfortunate misguided and abandoned youth is properly cared for—a place of kindness, cleanliness, and where girls and boys are made comfortable; taught thrift, industry and are given religious as well as secular training, fitting them for useful citizens for any community. Major W. P. McDowell, who was for years secretary and treasurer of the school, in speaking to us a few days ago said: "In 1870 the agitation for a colored boys' department was begun, Messrs. Daniel Spalding and Edward Wilder were among the most zealous advocates. This was brought about from the fact that so many small colored girls and boys were arrested for petty crimes; collected from the streets and bad places, and the only place to commit them was the Work House."

Mr. D. Spalding, who was president of the board at that time, became greatly impressed of the dire necessity of something being done for these unfortunates, in his report of December 31, 1872, said: "There should be a provision made at an early date for a house of refuge for colored juveniles, to which we would most respectfully call the attention of the General Council. We have ample room on the House of Refuge grounds for a suitable building, and should your honorable body think proper to make any appropriation for the erection and furnishing the same, the work can be carried forward the coming summer. It would seem but necessary to call your attention to the large number of this unfortunate class who are daily running our streets, committing depredations that will ultimately consign them to a felon's cell. Humanity calls loudly upon us to use our utmost endeavors to alleviate their condition. Many of them who are now wending their way on the downward road to ruin might, with proper restraint thrown around them, become useful citizens. It behooves us then, in the name and for the sake of suffering humanity, to make the effort." The same gentleman made this appeal December 31, 1874: "We are still much in need of a house of refuge for colored juveniles, and would most earnestly and respectfully appeal to the General Council to give us their hearty co-operation, that we may be able to get such an institution under way during the present year. It would seem but necessary to call your attention to the large number of these misguided youths running at large in our streets, committing all manner of depredations, which must ultimately consign them to our jails or work houses, where a thorough reformation is scarcely ever attained. Their training and future welfare is, in a great measure, entrusted to our hands. Common humanity calls aloud for our sympathies. Shall we, then, endeavor to make useful citizens of them by giving them a helping hand, or shall we let them pursue, their downward-way to destruction, and become a curse to themselves and to posterity? With an appropriation of, say $10,000 or $12,000, suitable buildings could be erected on the grounds belonging to the House of Refuge for sleeping apartments, and a small addition for work shops, that would afford ample accommodation for many years for both male and female. That such an institution is a necessity there seems to be but little difference of opinion on the subject. The all-absorbing question is, where are the funds to build and sustain the institution to come from?—that is the question. I am satisfied that if the General Council will give the matter their attention, they, in their wisdom, can devise ways to raise the neccessary amount. We would, then, most respectfully submit the whole matter into your hands, hoping that at an early day you will give the subject your thoughtful attention."

Mr. Spalding continued in his annual addresses to call the attention of the General Council to the absolute importance of a building for colored youths his colleagues associating with him in the flght. In 1876 the house was erected. His honor, the Mayor, Hon. Charles D. Jacob, in his annual address, January 4, 1877, said: "A very substantial and handsome building has just been completed for uncontrollable colored boys, who, though vicious, are yet too young to send to the Work House or Penitentiary. This House of Refuge reflects credit alike upon the liberality of sentiment of our citizens, and the good taste and economy of the managers, of whom Hon. Daniel Spalding is president." On September 20, 1877, the first inmates to the colored department were admitted, and, ending December 31 of the same year, twenty-five boys had been placed in the school.



Mr. Spalding for the year 1877 made this plausable mention: "Our house for colored juvenile delinquents, opened in September last, has at this time twenty-one inmates, and we have an abiding trust that the industrial, intellectual, and the religious training they receive here will be impressed upon the lives of a large majority of them. The impressions produced upon a large community of children, and the efficiency of the discipline, are discovered in the interest manifested in the school, in the attention secured in the chapel, in the order and industry in the workshops, and in the characters of those who come back to us after months and years of absence to report themselves and to express gratitude."

Mr. Peter Caldwell, who had charge as superintendent and who is so well adapted for the place, having all the necessary qualifications to manage and control an institution of this kind, and who, by his unlimited efforts to make the institution a success, has won for himself not only the very high esteem and confidence of the Board of Directors but the citizens as well, having an interest in both white and colored children alike, has this to say of the colored department in his annual report for 1877: "It will be necessary to erect a shop building this summer, as our other shops will be too much crowded. We desire that the colored children should have equal advantages given them to rise and improve themselves as the white children have. The prospects of the colored department could not be more encouraging. The children are orderly and scrupulously neat. They have not only surprised us in their good behavior and advancement generally, but in the excellent care they have taken of the building. There is not a scratch or spot on the walls or furniture, and one who did not know it to be a fact, would not believe that the building had been occupied, as it has, by twenty-five colored children for nearly four months."

Mr. James E. Pyle, who was principal at that time, writes the following in his annual statement: "We regard the education of these poor, neglected, and destitute children paramount to all other duties. Our special endeavor is to educate them in the broadest sense of the word. Hence, while we impart instruction to them in the various branches of learning, we are far from considering these items as constituting the sum of their education. Our great aim is to shield them from temptation, to check all visible errors, to instill moral and religious truth, and while we make them worthy citizens of our community, to render them fit candidates for the heavenly mansions above. Their daily life here is a school for general training in good habits of thought and practice, and these influences combine to produce good results, not only in the schoolroom, but wherever their duty leads them."

The Legislature passed an Act, which was approved February 15, 1869, to establish a house of reform for juvenile delinquents. Louisville became interested in this movement and desired to have the institution located in Jefferson county. To accomplish this end the General Council passed a resolution appropriating $8,000 as a bonus if the State would comply with this wish; which was accepted. The commissioners appointed by the Governor purchased the present Lakeland Asylum site, and the house was opened in 1873. These premises were converted into an institution for the education and training of feeble minded children, and was finally absorbed as an asylum for lunatics. The city's donation had been used, but she had not received in return the benefit of an institution for which the money had been given. The establishment of the Colored Boys' Department at the House of Refuge, which the city had erected and opened in 1877, was found to be of great benefit to our people and the city, and the importance of a house for colored girls began to claim the attention of the Board of Directors. The idea to have the State refund the $8,000 to be placed to the credit of a sinking fund to erect a Colored Girls' Department, was thought a good one. The General Council set to work to accomplish this end. Mr. L. R. McCleery, who was the clerk of the Board of Councilmen was commissioned by his honor, Charles D. Jacob, mayor, to take charge of the matter, and with a well prepared brief, after week's of toil and labor at Frakfort, the matter was presented to the Legislature, and an Act was passed refunding the $8,000, stipulating that it be used for colored girls' house of refuge expressly as requested by the General Council. The $8,000 was cheerfully re-

ceived April, 1890, which formed an assured basis for the early construction of a building for the colored girls.

December 7, 1892, Mr. T. P. Satterwhite, Jr., who was a member of the Board of Directors of the School of Reform and a councilman from the Fifth ward, made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Harry Stucky, that a committee be appointed to wait upon the mayor and finance committee requesting them to make an additional levy of one cent for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a house for colored girls. This motion was unanimously adopted by the Directors of the House of Refuge, and at a called council meeting (December 15, 1892) his honor the mayor, Henry S. Tyler, in his message to the General Council reported that an agreement had been reached by the Finance Committe that a levy of one cent to establish a fund for the erection of a building for colored females, and that the levy was made upon a condition that the Trustees of the School of Reform would accept the same and give a written guarantee to erect and have building ready for occupancy September 1, 1893.

Mr. Charles H. Pettet, president of the School of Reform, in a communication to the Mayor and General Council stated that the money would be faithfully used, and said: "Permit me to express our appreciation of the generous aid extended toward the accomplishment of the noble and philanthropic purpose for which it is appropriated." Mr. Satterwhite was at the time the tax levy was made a member of the Finance Committee.

The colored citizens who had taken an interest in the matter and employed what efforts they could to accomplish this end, held a meeting at the office of Dr. Felix G. Fowler, 802 North Tenth street, December 8, 1892, and communicated by letter to Mr. T. P. Satterwhite Jr., their appreciation of the motion which he made and which had been so promptly complied with by the action of the Mayor and Finance Committee. The letter was signed by Dr. Felix G. Fowler, chairman; Rev E L. Gilliam, secretary; B F. Porter, M D., C. H. Phillips, D. D, M. F. Robinson, M. D., Revs. J. H. Frank and M. McCoomer, Messrs W. H. Davis and Wm H. Steward.

The $8,000 refunded by the State, and the accumulation from the one cent additional tax levy, gave the directors sufficient funds to construct, in 1894, a handsome building which was completed and opened April, 1896.

Capt. John H. Leathers makes this statement in his printed report, March, 4, 1896: "The new building for colored girls, which was completed about two years ago, we are pleased to state is formally opened and ready for the reception of inmates. The addition of this building thereby affording proper facilities for the care of all classes of unfortunate children, both white and black, male and female, places our institution in the very front rank of similar institutions in the United States."

We make the following extract from Superintendent Peter Caldwell's report for 1895: "The opening of the colored female department will necessarily augment our care and responsibility, and require an additional outlay of money to carry forward the work that this new department will be expected to do. There are promises, however, in the future, that a greater liberality will be extended to us on the part of the Mayor and General Council, and that ample means will be provided for the carrying forward of this humane and philanthropic work, which has now for the first time in its history, become complete, well rounded, in all of its appointments, inasmuch as it includes all unfortunate classes of youth, irrespective of sex or race or color, found within the boundary of our city limits."

Captain John H. Leathers in his annual report, dated August 31, 1896, says: "The new building for colored girls, complete in all its arrangements, was formally opened last April, and the girls in that department receive the same care, discipline and educational facilities the white girls enjoy."

The Superintendent in his report for the same year, has this to say: "The importance to society of the proper care and training of the children of to day, and the citizen of tomorrow, can not be over estimated. Their influence upon advancing civilization and welfare of society are enormous. When a child develops into a man of morality, industry and thrift, something is added to the general prosperity and happiness, but when it becomes the victim of neglect, perverted tastes and vicious habits, society is proportionately degraded and cursed. If the child of the Hottentot goes naked, or the youth of Darkest Africa go unkept and untaught, no great harm cna come to us. They are too far distant. If they live and die in degredation no earthly interest of ours will be put in peril. They do not govern us. However degraded and depraved they may be they can not degrade our children. From statement E you see



that we are caring for for 248 American children, and 180 of these are Kentucky born, only two are of foreign birth. We and our children have to live with these children. We can not isolate ourselves and our children from them. They are members with us in a vast community and with them we have to do, and we should regard them as the offspring of a common father, endowed with a common nature, possessing common rights and destined to a common eternity. Children, by being placed in an Institution do not surrender any of their common rights common wants, physical and domestic, which are common to our own children. Food and raiment as well as shelter, are as necessary to their existence as to that of any other children."

We have made these quotations because they are worthy of a careful and considerate perusal. The appointments and arrangements are perfect; the sanitary condition excellent, and the efficient management can not be improved upon. Since the opening of the departments for colored children 741 youngsters have been committed. For the year ending December 31, 1896, there were twenty-one girls and sixty-two boys, in the school. The girls are taught to sew and care for the house, and the boys are worked in the mattress and broom shops. There is a regular corps of capable teachers employed, and regular school sessions are held daily. *The Gem* is the weekly publication. It has a colored boys' department edited by Mr. R. Wilkinson, formerly an inmate. Eddie Robinson, since his release, has graduated from Howard University, Washington City, and a New Yorker, of considerable wealth, selected him to make a trip to Europe, One of the boys, on leaving the Institution acquired a proficiency in stenography and type-writing, and has purchased for himself and mother a house and lot, and is living comfortably. These are evidences how far better it is to have an institution of this kind for girls and boys of disorderly conduct than to have them go to the Work-house. We can cite you to many cases where bad boys have become good men through the benign influences of this school.

Captain John H Leathers, the president, is one of Louisville's leading and prominent citizens, and merits the high appreciation for his untiring efforts to maintain this school upon a high basis with equal privileges and comforts to all alike. The members of the Board of Directors exercised every exertion for the establishment of these buildings for the proper training and correction of our incorrigible youth; their efforts have been very prolific, may they long be remembered by the once enslaved and unfortunate race.

At a meeting of the Kentucky Humane Society, held May 22, 1896, persuant to a call, the following persons were present: Captain John H. Leathers, Captain John H. Weller, Messrs. Julius Barkhouse, P. Caldwell, G. G. Brown; Mrs. Rogers, and Miss Duvall. The following colored citizens were present: Rev. J. H. Frank, Shelby Gillespie, I. Curtis, R. Jones, J. C. N Fowles, George Murphy and W. H. Ward. The meeting was presided over by Captain Leathers. By a resolution the following committee was appointed: J. C. N. Fowles, chairman; W. H Ward, vice-chairman; H. Morris, secretary; E. W. Marshall, W. H. Steward and Allen Johnson. It is the duty of a majority of this committee to report to the Humane Society colored children, male and female, between the ages of six and twelve years who are not under proper care and whose surroundings are such as would lead them astray, ruin their lives or make them criminals,

**Palestine Building and Loan Association**—There have been several of these associations organized, and this is the last one which has been added to the list. This association was organized and incorporated January 11, 1892, and has just closed its fifth year. In December, 1893, a piece of property was purchased, and since that time eleven lots—of which two are improved property, one house on the Point and the Masonic Hall on Sixth street. The property under its control amounts to $6,000. Its first officers were James Jackson, president; Willis Baker vice-president; A. D. Black, secretary and treasurer; Peter Richardson and Jerry Lancaster, directors. The following are the present officers: Ed Warden, president; Willis Baker, vice-president; A. D. Black, secretary and treasurer; D. H. Woods and J. E. Jackson, directors. The highest number of members at any one time has not exceeded thirty, every effort has been put forth to make the project a success as this association was organized for the benefit of Masons. The managers claim it has been poorly supported, and, if the members of the fraternity had connected themselves with it, they would have had under control double the property and fifty per cent. more capital. The following is the Notice of Incorporation:

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION.

*Be It Remembered*, That the undersigned, have this 11th day of January, 1892, associated themselves together, and become incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 56 of the General Statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

First. The name of the Corporation shall be the Palestine Real Estate Association of the city of Louisville. The principal place of transacting business of the Corporation shall be the city of Louisville, Kentucky.

Second. The general nature of the business proposed to be transacted is that of buying real estate and to procure homes for such members of said corporation as may desire them, or any business whatever that the Board may approve.

Third. The capital stock authorized shall be the sum of $25,000, divided into shares of $25 each; which stock shall be fully paid up in cash, or such portion thereof as its board may direct, or as its equivalent as it may be subscribed.

Fourth. The corporation shall commence as soon as 20 per cent. of shares of the capital stock shall be subscribed and paid up, and shall continue for twenty-five years, unless sooner dissolved by a vote representing a majority of the stock subscribed; and may be renewed from time to time for periods not greater than twenty-five years each if three-fourths of the votes cast at a regular election held for that purpose shall be in favor of such renewals.

Fifth. The officers of the corporation are to be conducted by a board, consisting of not more than nine nor less than five directors, by a President, Vice President, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer need not necessarily be members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may also appoint a General Manager and such other officers and agents as they may deem proper for the management of the business of the corporation. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by one person.

Sixth. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation is at any time to subject itself shall be the sum of two-thirds of the capital stock subscribed and paid up.

Seventh. Private property of the members and stockholders shall be exempt from liability for corporate debts.

A. D. BLACK,
JAS. E. JACKSON,
WILLIS BAKER,
JERRY LANCASTER,
PETER RICHARDSON.

**Miss Lizzie C. Crittenden** is prominently identified with religious and educational work. She received an early educational training in the Rev. Henry Adams' school, and has since attended night school. She is president of the Baptist Womens' Educational Convention, and has been the incumbent for four years. She is the possessor of many qualities and has accomplished much good through strenuous efforts. She does not occupy the high position of school teacher (?), music instructor, nor does she claim any literary attainment, but humbly situated as she is (a house maid) commands the extreme confidence and respectability of the citizens of the various denominations. She is a prominent member and a great worker at the Fifth-street Baptist Church, and has been connected with the choir for years as one of the leading soprano singers. She has occupied the position of treasurer of the State University Society of her church for fifteen years, and has been an indefatigable worker for the State University. Large sums of money have been saved for this college through her efforts. Dr. Simmons gave her great credit for paying the interest on the deferred notes when an offer was made by the American Baptist Home Society of New York to pay $7,800 provided the colored Baptists would pay the interest. She has acquired some property and still delights to contribute time and means to maintain and support the college. She is worthy the confidence imposed and is a pattern for our young women.

**Mrs Lucy Brown** is one of those untiring workers whose greatest characteristic is to be doing something for good. She has held the Worthy Princess' chair of St. Rose Temple for eleven years, and is the vice president of the Ladies' Auxiliary Board of the United Brothers' Old Folks Home at Brook's Station. She was the first female of her race to be sent from the female department of Odd Fellows to the Board of Management of the Odd Fellows Hall, Thirteenth and Walnut streets.



**Dr. Wm. T. Peyton**—One of the most remarkable men who entered Louisville and made it his home is Dr. Wm. T. Peyton. In June, 1875, he stood the teachers' examination and obtained a principal's certificate, and was at once elected principal of the Western School. This school under his management became the largest colored school in the world, at one time he had twenty-seven assistant teachers. The Board established a Normal School and placed it in the Western with him for principal. For want of room it was not continued the next year. Dr. Peyton is openly acknowledged as probably the best educated colored man and best instructor in our city. At least this is said by the great dailies. He began the study of medicine in Iowa and completed it in the Louisville National Medical College. He has held the chair of General Pathology in his alma mater since 1890. Last year the Board of Regents elected him Professor of Physicology, Pathology and Hygiene His lecturers attract many members of the profession and are scholarly. In matters affecting the public good he has been very active. He attended the Educational Convention in Frankfort Kentucky, of which Judge Beckner was chairman. Dr. Peyton was one of the secretaries and the only colored member elected to one of the offices. In secret societies he has been very active, and is now Deputy Sovereign Grand Inspector General of 33rd and last degree A. A. S. R. Masonry. He is also Inp. Dep. Pot. of Mystic Shrine. As a doctor it is said he is very successful His office comprises a suite of rooms, No 931 West Jefferson street. He has a costly medical library, apparatuses for medicated baths and electrical machines for therapeutical effect of electricity. Dr. Peyton has not yet reached the prime of life and there may yet be for him many years of usefulness in his profession.

**George A. Carter** is a native of Lincolin county, Kentucky, and has seen thirty summers. He was brought to this city by his parents on account of better school facilities. After the death of his father he was forced to abandon school and engage at work to support his mother. In early life he had a great fancy for machinery, and as he grew older a taste for mechanical literature developed. He supplied himself with tools, and at the age of seventeen years he had built and completed his first steam engine. Dr. Wm. J. Simmons, who was a commissioner of the New Orleans Cotton Exposition, got possession of this piece of work and put it on exhibition. At the age of eighteen he secured employment as a stationary engineer and has since followed this avocation. Giving every spare moment to the study of engineering Mr. Carter to-day is the most skilled machinist of his race in the State. He drafts his own designs, makes his own patterns, and finishes his own work at the lathe, drill bench or planer. He also thoroughly understands the production and conduction of electricity and running of wires. His entire time is given to the study of machinery. He is the leading light of the Progressive Mechanic Association, and says the colored man ought to eschew politics and engage in something by which he could benefit himself and his race. He pays taxes on $1,800 worth of real estate.

**Rev. J W. Luckett**—Fewer ministers, if any, have become popular in a great city in such a short time as has the subject of this sketch. Rev. Luckett is in his 29th year, and has been in the ministry for fourteen years. His first charge was at Williamstown, he was then assigned to Hodgenville and Paducah At the latter place he purchased ground and built a splendid church edifice with a seating capacity of 400. Serving the church at Lebanon, Ky., he was then transferred to Washington City. During his pastorate of four years there he built the Miles Memorial Tabernacle at a cost of $40,000. He attended the common schools at Russellville, Kentucky, passing entirely through them, and is a graduate from the theological department of the Howard University English department. He was transferred from Washington City to the Centre-street Church of this city September, 1894, and has had phenominal success. The seating capacity of the church is inadequate for the congregation. He is a fluent, forcible and attractive speaker, and his language is choice and commanding the most precise critic's attention. The church's influence in its neighborhood has increased, and many refer to the time before the war when this church was the drawing feature to the colored people of this city.

**J. L. V. Washington** is another example of negro capacity, he is a native of Woodford county, and was born in the late sixties. He had only eighteen months schooling. He is a good speaker, uses good language and writes a legible hand. In the civil examination of 1891 his average was good (79¼), making equally as good an exami-

nation as some of our school teachers He is a painter by trade, but is unable to follow his calling on account of his health He is a leading light in the Knights of Pythias and in 1896 was elected Grand Chancellor of Kentucky. He is a member of many organizations and is a progressive young man

**David Stewart** has been a successful young man: he operates one of the finest barber-shops in the city, and arose from a "brush-boy" to proprietor.

**W. H. Brown** is one of the best young business men in the city. He started out nine years ago, and it is said he is worth $4,000. He runs a dray and transfer business and is well educated. Mr. Brown's time is entirely occupied in superintending his business. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias.

**Dr. Felix G. Fowler** was at one time the office boy for Dr. Yandell. He accepted a position with the Merchant's National Bank. He received an appointment as letter-carrier and filled this place for fourteen years. At the opening of the National Medical College he began the study of medicine, continuing to fill his position on the letter-carrier force he graduated in 1892, and in 1894 resigned his position to follow his profession. He is the physician for the Old Folk's Home and Colored Orphans' Home. He also took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Policlinic College.

**Prof. W. P. Annis** has been connected with the city schools for twenty-three years and was the first Louisville boy to receive an appointment in our High School. He is State Grand Secretary of the Masons, which position he has filled for several terms Well educated and has many attainments.

**Dr. D. A. Gaddie**, pastor of Green-street Church was, before entering the ministry, a blacksmith. He is a powerful speaker and has few equals as a theological reasoner, He is deep, and when he speaks every utterance of his counts for something. He has held this charge for twenty-four years. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him in 1885 by the State University.

**Horace Morris** has been a conspicuous figure in the affairs of interest and importance to his fellow-colored citizens, since freedom was first extended to our people. He was educated in Ohio and has lived here all his life He is a prominent Mason and has been connected officially with that body. He was a member of the "under-ground" railroad of Ohio, and took an active part in the Martha Griener trial in Cincinnati in 1850. He was secretary of the Advisory Board of the colored schools, and at the close of the Freedmen's Bank he was the only colored cashier called to Washington to assist in posting the accounts. He filled a clerical position in the Treasury Department under General Bristow, and during Garfield's administration was appointed steward of the Marine Hospital, the first colored man in the country to fill such a position.

**Odd Fellows**—The introduction of this order was caused by the dissatisfaction of a number of men who withdrew from the Independent Sons of Honor in 1866, among whom were Carey Lowery, Shelton Guest, Perry Craig, Edward Owens and others. They found shelter in the Center-street Church near Green, and organized themselves and were known as the United Sons of Independence. They elected Rev. Wm. F. Butler, chairman; James Mosby, secretary, and Shelton Guest, treasurer. Mr. Carey Lowery, who was the pioneer for satisfaction, suggested the idea of converting this new organization into an Odd Fellow lodge. He visited the place of meeting of the Boone Lodge (white) on Jefferson street near First, and through the kindness of a member was presented with literature and aprons, but was informed that they could not organize or make them Odd Fellows. Providentially a Mr. J. O. Burns returned to Louisville to visit relatives who had been initiated an Odd Fellow. He was approached regarding the proper steps to take. He gave the address of Mr. James Needham, the Grand Secretary, who was located at Philadelphia, Pa., with whom a correspondence was opened at once. A letter was received from him advising the earnest seekers for Odd Fellowship to apply to Ohio Lodge at Cleveland as that was the nearest Lodge to them. The application was made, and Messrs. D. H. Cosby, J. E. Bankhead, A. J. Catlin, G. S. Whitfield, D. L. Goins, and J. W. Bush were commissioned and sent from the Cleveland Lodge, and on June 10, 1867, the first colored Odd Fellows Lodge in Kentucky was established. There were two names advanced for the new lodge—"Mount Sinai" and "Union"—Union receiving the the highest number of votes was adopted as the name. From the organization of this lodge the order began to grow in the State. There are at present in Kentucky 114 lodges with a membership of 4,108.



**Enterprise Waste Mill Co.**—This company was organized in 1892 by the late Bishop W. H. Miles and S. Walter Russell. The mill is located on Walnut between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, and is equiped with the latest improved machinery. Its principal production is the manufacturing of railroad packing waste, and is the only plant of its kind in the State. It has a capacity of 1,000 pounds of finished material per day. At the death of Bishop Miles the entire management fell upon Mr. Russell, whose practical knowledge soon brought it to its present standing. It said the work of this plant is second to none.

**Centennial Baptist Church** is one of the churches built since the war. It is located on Harney between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets. The congregation worshiped in a small frame house for some time, and under the ministration of the present pastor the new church-house was erected. It is a well-built church, attractive, and is attended by an intelligent congregation. They have 425 members. Rev. John Lewis, who is the pastor, is a man well thought of in his neighborhood and by the Baptists generally. He is a progressive preacher and very affable.

**Jacob-street Tabernacle**—In the year 1869, when there prevailed much confusion and the members of Centre-street Church were running to-and-fro connecting themselves with other churches, Baptist and Methodist, the Rev. Anthony Bunch, who was assigned as city missionary, rented a school-building on the northwest corner Hancock and Chestnut streets and organized an A. M. E. Zion Church. He was succeeded the following year by Rev. E. H. Curry, who purchased a lot east of Hancock on Chestnut in 1870. This was sold and a lot was bargained for on the north side of Jacob street, fifty or sixty feet from the corner west of Jackson street. The party finding out that the ground was to be used for a colored church building cancelled the agreement. Then the present site, where the church now stands on Jacob between Preston and Jackson streets, was purchased May 1871. In the meantime the frame church which stood at the corner of Hancock and Roselane was bought for $325 and bodily transferred to the newly purchased lot. The house was put in order and dedicated as "Curry Chapel." The congregation grew, the adjoining lot was purchased and in 1878 the new press brick-front church was erected. Services were conducted in the basement, and in 1881 the main audience room was completed The additions and the erection and completion of this fine church edifice was accomplished under the Rev. E. H. Curry's ministrations.

The following were the appointments made to the church since 1869: Revs. A. Bunch, E. H. Curry, Y. Carr, T. J. Manson, J. L. H. Sweres, J. B. Johnson, J. B. Kidd, W. H. Chamders, J. H. McMullen, and E. D. W. Jones, the latter was appointed July 1896. The first organist and choir director was a white man, Prof. Isham, in 1872. This is one of the most intelligent and fashionable Methodist congregations in the city, and the last accomplishment of the Rev. Dr. Curry was the placing in of a powerful pipe organ during his administration in 1889.

The foundation of the present building is the stone from the fence which surrounded the old post-office building, Third and Green streets. This was the first colored church to have stained glass and an elevation in its main audience room. Among its officials are, G. H. White, J. H. French, J. I. Wingfield, M. Yates, W. W. Willis, J. Brown, J. Crawley, James Ballard, Amos Kemp, J. R. White, Henry Clay, James H. Weeden, Coleman Wilson, Henry Barbour, Wm. Kennison, Mrs. Ellen Kidd. Jas. A. Nunn. Local preachers—Charles Breckinridge, James Alexander, Chas. Brown, James Stapleton.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL OFFICERS.

B. Pierce, superintendent; Miss Mary Hicks, assistant superintendent; J. R. White, treasurer; Miss Cora Roberts, assistant superintendent; H. C. Weeden, musical director; Miss Florence Nunn, organist; Mr. Wm. Franklin, librarian. Teachers—Rev. E. D. W. Jones, B. Rogers, J. H. French, Thos. Lightfoot, J. Brown, Mrs. Sue Young, Mrs. Sarah Woods, Misses Mary Carr, Mary Hicks, Florence Nunn, Emma Lang.

Revs. Payton Talleferro, Smith Claiborne, Mrs. Belle Adams; Messrs Jas. A. Nunn, H. C. Weeden, served as sunday-school superintendents.

**Colored Department of the Kentucky Institute for the Blind**—On March 27, 1884, Gov. Knott signed a bill of the Legislature appropriating $20,000 to erect a building for the education of the colored blind children of the State. This

school was formerly opened October 4, 1886, Its scope is the same as that of the school for white blind. The children are taught all the branches of a good English education, weaving in cane, tuneing of pianos, music and the use of the needle. The report for 1896 shows twenty-six colored inmates, twelve males and fourteen females. Mr. B. B. Huntoon, superintendent of the white department also has charge of the colored quarters. The following colored persons are employed: Miss Fannie Wood, matron; Miss Octavia Wood, teacher; Miss Ella Williams, housegirl; Mrs. Margaret Wood, cook; Edward Wood, houseman. We could not do otherwise than give an account of this institution, notwithstanding it is a State affair, it comes under our notice because it is located inside the boundary of the city. The colored children's building is a substantial and spacious one, amply supplied and equipped to make the children comfortable.

**Doctors**—Louisville has been quite a field for colored doctors in the last few years. At first the people did not take favorably to the colored men of this profession, but as enlightment opened up the way colored doctors fared better. At one time we had eleven doctors in the city. The following are practicing here at present: H. and J. H. Fitzbutler, Felix G. Fowler, E. D. Whedbee, A. B. Pruett, E. R. Gaddie, E. S. Porter, M. F Robinson, H. H. Jones, Mrs. Dr. Edward Warden, Mrs. Dr. Sarah Fitzbutler. Dr. Henry Fitzbutler was the first colored physician to locate in Louisville, coming here in July, 1872. He is a graduate of Annarbor Medical College, Michigan. Dr. Fitzbutler has been identified with the colored people's interest, and until late years took an active part in politics. He is the promotor of the Louisville National Medical College, and is an acknowledged physician of ability.

**Lawyers**—Louisville has her share of colored lawyers. They do not increase so rapidly as one might think in a city of 40,000 colored inhabitants. We have Messrs N. R. Harper, Isaac E. Black, A. S. White, I. C. Townsend, T. R. Hammonds.

**Judge N. R. Harper,** who came to this city in 1869, was the first colored lawyer in the State. He has been identified with many movements for the advancement of his people, and, aside from his profession, he is an organist and instructor of vocal music. He was instrumental in organizing the great musical festivals among the colored people in 1871-78-81. Was the first of his race to receive a commission of notary public in the State, and the first colored man of the State to preside as judge, he was called to the bench by Judge R. H. Thompson in 1888. He was appointed by Governor Bradley commissioner of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Statistics of the Colored People of the State. He is a fluent speaker and has figured conspicuously in politics for years; is widely known throughout the State, and was the choice of many at one time as the nominee for Congress in this district and his legislative district. He edited for a short time a negro publication in 1873.

**S Q. Woodson** is a young man who has by vigorous efforts made himself a practical engineer. After school he worked at odd jobs at Mr. Dick Fergurson's machine shop. He gave up his studies in the school-room and applied all his time in the shops and became a competent machinest. He is at present engineer and machinist at the Southwestern Collar Manufacturing Company. He is an expert at bicyle repairing and is a soft and hard tin sorter.

**Sanders D. Martin** has been for eighteen years the janitor of the Central High School, and was for three years as assistant at the Eighth Ward School. He is a Mason and served as R. E. Grand Commander of Knight Templars for five terms, during which time the trouble between Ohio and Kentucky was settled. Under his administration five commandries were set up in Indiana. He is a man of limited education, has acquired some property. He is a prominent member of Fifth-street Baptist Church and is a progressive citizen.

**Mathew W. Willis,** of 1417 Logan street, is a practical carpenter and builder, and has worked at his trade sixteen years (half of his life). He has a pattern of a machine which is said can be attached to a wagon and by its natural or loaded weight can be propelled through the streets. The arrangement exhibits great ingenuity, and if it can be successfully carried into effect will be classed one of the greatest inventions of the nineteenth centuary. He has under advisement a stock company, and will apply for a patent at an early date.

**Jesse Taylor** is a thorough and competent engineer, and is at present machinist, engineer and millwright at the National Leather Oak Company, a very responsible position which he has filled for seven years. He attended the schools at Frankfort and Richmond, Ky., and served as an apprentice at his trade in Pittsburg, Pa. He ran for some time the engine of a section train, filled other important positions and has had full charge of several stationary engines. He is assistant-chief mechanic of the Progressive Mechanic Association, and has property to the amount of $3,000.



**Fifth-street Baptist Church** is located on Fifth between Chestnut and Walnut streets and is the first colored Baptist church to be set apart seperately. The nuclus for this church was formed on Market street below Eighth. Rev. Henry Kiger was the first pastor who was assisted by the white brethren. The church-house was a little frame building, and was, probably, the same church used by the Methodists as it is said union meetings were held there. It was reached at night by the use of lanterns, the place being swampy. A slave-owner dedicated the ground at Fifth and York streets, known to the citizens at present as Calvary Baptist Church, about the year 1835 for a place of worship for his slaves, and others in the immediate neighborhood, with the assistance of donations of lumber and other material, a "meeting-house" was erected.

Fifth street was then a country road (Flack Lick Road), and was sometimes called Saratoga street. Great inconvenience was experienced in getting to the church through Fifth street on account of mud and water, punchons and logs made the walks, the church, at that time, was beyond the city limits.

Rev. Henry Adams became pastor of the church in 1839, and the first Sunday in June, 1842, the church was organized as a separate church for colored Baptists. The first clerk of the church was Mr. Wm. Colgan (white), he was superseded by Mr. I. M. Hewett (white) who served from 1842 until December, 1844, when Mr. Solomon Patterson, the first colored clerk, was elected. On January 13, 1845, the present building (now occupied) was bought from the Fourth and Walnut-street Christian Church, the purchase price was $5,000, $500 paid in cash. Messrs Cæser Burrell and Solomon Patterson (colored) were entered as the trustees. In 1842 the pastor was paid a salary of $600 per year. Mr. Solomon Patterson was succeeded, at his death, by Mr. Q. B. Jones as clerk. Rev. Mr. Adams pastored the church until his death in 1872, serving thirty-three years. His funeral was attended at the Fourth and Walnut-street Baptist Church, the eulogy was delivered by Rev. S. L. Helm, who knew him in his boyhood days. It was a very remarkable occasion, the bell of the church was tolled, the choir of his church rendered the music and Messrs Nepoleon Bonapart and George Brown acted as ushers. As the funeral cortage passed through the streets great crowds witnessed it. Mr. Adams was a popular preacher and the leading light of the colored Baptists in the State.

The Rev. Andrew Heath was called as pastor, he died in 1886 after fourteen years service. The Rev. John H. Frank, who was assistant pastor, was called. He was, at the time, a porter in a millinery store on Fourth street, and was certainly honored in receiving a call to such a fashionable and intelligent congregation. He is popular with his people and has filled his pulpit acceptably. The present membership is 1,945, Sunday-school scholars, 400, with twenty-six teachers; the yearly collections amount to $3,500 and the pastor is paid a salary of $1.200. The present officers are, T. Parker, W. H. Steward, H. Crutcher J. H. Jackson, Mead Hightower, N. Bonaparte, J. L. Brown, W. C. F. Mason, C. H. Duncan, and Richard Hamilton, clerk, who was elected at the death of Mr. Q. B. Jones in 1893. It is said the first colored choir organized in the city was at this church in the early part of 1847, its leader was Mr. Samuel Gibbs It sang without an organ and in subsequeunt years had a bass viola as an accompianist. Among the members were, Solomon Patterson, Pollie Bullitt, Edmonia Goodall, Jane Christopher. Subsequently it was led by Solomon Patterson. About the beginning of the war John Collins became the leader and among the members were, John Jordan, Q. B. Jones, Armstead Butler, Burrell Kellar, Daniel McKamey, Andrew Heath (afterwards pastor of the church), Jane E. McKamey, Jane C. Campbell, Lizzie Gibson. The present choir was organized in June, 1867 out of a singing class which was taught by Madison Minnis, and of which he was the leader. It has had as organists, Miss Martha A. Morton, Mrs. S. Gertie Hutchison, Mrs. L. J. Gibson, Miss Tillie S. Waters and Mrs. M. E. Steward, the present incumbent. Among its members have been Mrs. E. S. Porter, Miss V. M. Burks, Mrs. M. C. Ferguson, Mrs. M. L. Mead, Miss S. E. Preston,

Miss J. C. Campbell, Mrs. S. B Taylor, Mrs. E. G. Harris, Miss Lizzie C. Crittenden, Miss S. E. Bell, Miss A. T. Brown, J. H. Moody, S. W. Jorden, W. L. Gibson, Thomas L. Morgan, W. T. Burk The present leader, W. H. Steward, was elected at the death of Madison Minnis This choir has made an extensive reputation at home and abroad, and made several tours in this and other States.

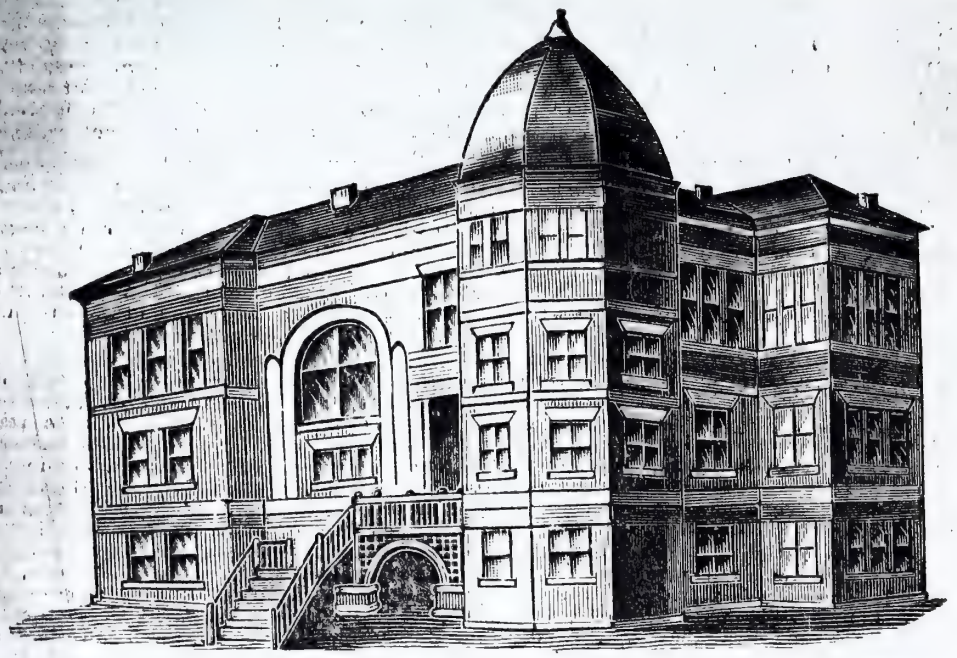
**State Baptist University**—The first Baptist State Convention was held in 1865 in the Fifth-street Baptist Church. Among the prominent ministers in attendance were Revs Henry Adams, Willis W. Taylor, Richard Sneathen, of this city; G. W. Dupree, of Paducah; R Lee, Georgetown; R. Martin, Frankfort; James Monroe, F. Broxton, Lexington; Charles Clark, Shelbyville; E. W. Green, Maysville. An organization was perfected, and one of the first resolutions adopted was one to establish a school for the training of ministers and teachers. It was some years before the resolution was put in effect, when the Hill property in Frankfort was purchased, but the project to erect a school on this land was never successful. A school was afterward started in this city under the auspices of the General Association, with the Rev. A. Barry in charge which was only temporary. In 1879 the present site on Kentucky between Seventh and Eighth streets was bargained for, and in February a school was opened by Rev. Dr. E. P. Marrs and his brother Henry C. Marrs, who worked hard for its success. In September the talented Rev. Wm. J. Simmons, who afterward became the acknowledged leader among the colored Baptists of the country, was secured as president, and the college under his leadership became one of the leading institutions among colored Baptists. Dr. Simmons resigned in 1890, and was succeeded by Rev. J. H. Garnett, D. D., who remained with the school until 1895, when he resigned and was followed by Rev. C. I. Purce as president, who had served the Selma, Ala., University for ten years as its president.

The property was deeded May 1, 1879 to the General Association of Colored Baptists of Kentucky, the purchase price being $13.800, of which $1,000 was paid in cash. This property was bought of the American Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Pa., and on October 25, 1888, five notes to the amount of $7,800 was assigned and transferred to the American Baptist Home Society. The college suffered a destruction, by fire, of its chapel which necessitated the erection of a new one at a cost of $6,000 For repairs, improvements, and balance due on chapel, there is a debt of about $3,000.

There is no doubt of the good accomplished through this institution for this denomination; young women and men coming from all sections to attend its sessions; fully 3,000 have entered its sessions, thirty-three from the college and 250 normal graduates have been given diplomas. It is said there have been more honorary degrees conferred by this college than any of the schools of its class. Over 225 students are enrolled this year, of whom thirty are ministers.

**Louisville Cemetery Association**—There have been several corporations started in this city, but the most successful and wealthiest of them all is this cemetery company. The late Bishop W. H. Miles became very much interested in a movement for the forming of a company of this kind and called a mass meeting in Centre-street Church in 1886. The meeting was well attended, and quite an interest manifested in the new project. The plan was laid, and articles of incorporation and association were drawn up and adopted. The Legislature incorporated the company with W. H. Miles, W. P. Churchill, A. J. Bibb, H. C. Weeden, J. Meriwether, Wm. H. Gibson, Sr., and Felix Johnson as incorporators. In 1887 an agreement was entered into for the purchase of 31¼ acres on the Poplar Level road. In the fall of the same year the grounds were dedicated, the principal address being made by Wm. H. Gibson, Sr The company could not find a colored man for sexton, and a white man, who had acquired experience at the business was employed, who remained with the company for some time. J. A. S. Miles succeeded him and Detroit Stewart was employed in the spring of 1894. The company undergoing several pressing years gave up the original contract, and instead of 31¼ acres made another contract for 14 78-100 acres. A vault, two cottages and a stables have been built, a good road made, the grounds put under a fence, a full set of tools, horse, wagon and cart, make up the property of the company. Bishop Miles was president until his death, at which time A. J. Bibb became president W. H. Gibson, Sr., and Prof. W. H. Perry, were its first treasurers. The company is managed by a board of directors, as follows: A. J. Bibb, James Brown, S. Curry, Wm. H. Brown, H. C. Weeden, M. Bradley, W. P. Churchill. The present officers are A. J. Bibb, president; W. P. Churchill, vice-president; Dr. Felix G. Fowler, treasurer; H C. Weeden, secretary; W. H. Brown assistant secretary. The present secretary has served since its first incorporation.





**Colored Girls Building, Industrial School of Reform,**

Third and C Streets. Opened April 1896.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT—CAPT. JNO. H. LEATHERS. VICE PRESIDENT—J. A. ZIMMERMAN.
SEC'Y & TREAS—WM. F. INGRAM. SUPT—P. CALDWELL.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ZACH PHELPS. J. L. CHILTON. K. W. SMITH. M. V. JOYES.
W. C. KENDRICK. CHAS. W. LONG. AUGUST KOOP.
JNO. H. LEATHERS. J. A ZIMMERMAN.

☞The above officers are all white.

**W. H. Steward,** was the first colored man sworn in on the letter carrier's force. He was a pupil in the Rev. H. Adams' school, and after the opening of the city schools was employed as teacher. He has occupied the position of the State General Baptist Association and ten years as secretary of the National Baptist Convention, and has been for years officially connected with the State conventions He has figured prominently is his church and has been for several years the superintendent of the Sunday-school department for his church in the State. He was for two years Grand Master of the State Masonic Lodge. He has property and has been identified with the negro's interests in the city.

**Prof Samuel B. Taylor** received his early educational training in this city, which was later supplemented by a special course at Oberlin College. He passed a

civil service examination and received an appointment in the postal service in 1885. He declined to accept a position as teacher at Simpsonville Ky. In 1886 he was appointed assistant teacher at Lafayette-street school, this city, and in November of the same year promoted to principal. At the opening of the Main-street School, February, 1887, he was appointed principal, which position he has filled acceptably up to this time. In addition to this he has been the principal of the Eastern Night School several years. Prof. Taylor was born in Louisville in 1862, and is a deserving home boy.

**J H Taylor** came to this city in 1865 and followed his trade as house carpenter until 1867 when he formed a partnership with Rev. Yarmouth Carr and opened an undertaking business. Mr. Taylor made the coffins in a good many cases. He afterward conducted the same business with the late R. C. Fox, and has since been managing a business of his own. He had no shooling, but by hard study acquired a proficiency in English. He is well and favorably known, an Odd Fellow, Mason, United Brother, Knight of Tabor, and is possibly connected with more secret societies than any one man in Louisville. He is worth several thousand dollars which was made in this city.

**Jackson-street M. E. Church** was at one time known as Frog Pond Church, and is well known to the colored citizens. The present brick building was erected in 1868. The ground for this church (Jackson between Green and Jefferson streets) was deeded by Mr. Francis Preston and wife in 1832 for Methodist church purposes. After which a frame church was erected which was built upon posts. It was named Frog Pond Church on account of the pond and the croking of frogs, it is said the noise from the frogs during night service greatly interrupted the meeting. This church is under the M E Church, over which white Bishops preside. It has been quite a notable church, great crowds at one time attended the services. Rev Adam Nunn was pastor of the church in 1868 when the present building was erected The pulpit has been filled by Revs J. L. H. Sweres, J. Courtney, M. L. Muir, M. M McCoomor, J. Stanley, L M. Haygood and others, and is at present occupied by Dr. T. L. Ferguson an able and eloquent speaker who was raised a Quaker. In 1848 the church was pastored by Rev. George Holland assisted by William Thompson. Henry Philman and John Young. The present officers are, Dr. Page Lewis, chairman; J. D. Long, secretary; Dr. W A. Brown, Matt Brown, Solomon Loving, Calvin McAfee, Paul Johnson. The late Wash Spradling gave much assistantance to this church in the way of means, and on severing his membership with Centre-street joined with this church.

**Independent Sons of Honor**—This order was founded and organized August 14, 1848 by James Owens. Its meetings were held in cellars and basements on Green near Second street. Centre-street Church was afterward secured and meetings were continued there. In 1880 the society developed into a national organization. Annual meetings are held. It has quite a number of lodges and a very large membership.

**Dr. E. S. Porter** located in this city in 1879 and has been a success. He has built up a large practice and has been for years one of our leading physicians. He was the only colored graduate in a class of forty from the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, in 1878.

**Dr. B. F. Porter** before entering upon the active practice of medicine was pastor of Quinn Chapel Church and presiding elder of this district. He is a graduate of the National Medical College, and was appointed in 1896 by Governor Bradley physician in charge of the colored ward at the Lakeland Lunatic Asylum.

**John C. N. Fowles** was born in the Quaker City in 1834 and came to this city in 1848. He is well known, a prominent citizen and a Mason. He became a member of Mount Moriah Lodge in 1855 and was for four terms the worshipful master of Keystone Lodge, and in 1871-72 was elected most worshipful grand master of the State. He assisted in the organization of the Grand Chapter and was its first grand high priest and served eight years as high priest of Mt. Horeb Chapter. He assisted in the formation of the Grand Commandery and was elevated to eminent commander of Cyrene Commandery. In 1867 he was appointed president of the Freedmen's Sanitary Commission, and was selected treasurer of the Freedmen's Hospital. He is at present chairman of the colored committee appointed by the Humane Society for the colored departments of the School of Reform.



**Asbury Chapel** (Ninth between Walnut and Grayson streets) has been located at this place forty-six years. The old church which stood at Fourth and Green was at one time occupied by this congregation. October 12, 1829, a subscription was started by white people for the purpose of raising means to erect a church to be known as the "Associated Protestant Methodist Church," which had an organization and headquarters in Baltimore, Md. A sufficient amount was subscribed and paid in, a lot was bargained for and a brick house of worship built at Fourth and Green streets. The congregation did not seem to grow very fast, were without a pastor at times and finally abandoned the church. Some time prior to 1838 the church was rented by the city of Louisville in which the *Louisville Chancery Court* convened. The Dutch Reform Church leased it September 14, 1839, and a Presbyterian congregation also worshiped in it. It was unoccupied for a short while hogs and cattle used the basement to shelter in. It was leased January 15, 1842, by the Methodists, and later the African Methodist Church came in possession of it

There was a claim held against the property by a party, and suit was entered to recover the amount. The case was tried in the Chancery Division and by a decree of the court the property was sold at the Court-house door March 10, 1845, and was purchased by James Harper (colored) at $3,510, he being the highest bidder. He paid in cash $719.89 and executed two notes of $719 89 each, and three notes of $450 11 each, with David Straws as security. The sale was confirmed by the court March 21, 1845 and on March 25, 1845, the transfer was made The first payment which was made on the property James Harper advanced $169.56 and David Straws $568.45. The buying of this church was a good invastment, the services were more interesting than usual and attendance larger. The Masonic Temple Company, which had purchased ground on Jefferson street, desired to have the block facing Fourth street from Jefferson to Green streets, made the colored church people an offer of $6,000 for their property, the offer was accepted February 14, 1851, with the proviso that the company would purchase the ground for a church within a certain radius, Ninth street was the western boundary line, the present location of eighty feet was selected by the white masonic body at a cost of $2,750; a building was erected on the lot and the balance due on the Fourth-street property ($3,250) was paid on it. In the spring of 1851 the congregation bade farewell to the Fourth and Green street church and transferred to Ninth street. The deed in full was made to the Ninth-street property October 28, 1853, naming David Straws, Levi Evans, Wm. Butcher, Nathan B. Rogers and Nathan Brown trustees. The church prospered, succeeded well and the pulpit has been filled by some very able preachers of the race. In 1874 the first pipe organ placed in a colored church was placed in this church, which attracted large crowds. In 1877 the church was destroyed by fire, since which time the congregation has been worshiping in the basement.

The selling of this church to the Masons was objected to by members of the church, and a law suit followed, which was finally settled and the deed was made in 1853. Hon. Hiram R. Revels, who was in 1869 elected to the United States Senate to fill the place of Jefferson Davis from Mississippi, pastored this church.

**W. H. Gibson, Sr.,** came to Louisville from Maryland in 1847 and began the teaching of school by assisting Mr. Robert Lane, in a few months opened a school for himself in Asbury Chapel. When the church was removed in 1851, his school was carried on, in Seventh street between Green and Jefferson, opposite Hoefer's. During the war, he was commissioned as recruiting sergeant and added more than a hundred men to the 54th Massachusetts regiment. In 1862 he left for Indianapolis and in 1865 located in Leavenworth, Kansas, stood the examination and secured the school. In 1866 he returned to Kentucky, Judge Brewer, who is now on the Supreme Bench and at that time president of the school board, wrote urgent letters to have him return to the work. As early as 1847 he gave musical entertainments at the church at Fourth and Green streets by his choir accompanied by an orchestra, he playing the violin and Germans performing on other instruments; his entertainments were attended by crowded houses. He received an appointment in 1870 as mail-agent between Louisville and Lexington, and had a most daring time. In 1874 he was appointed U. S. Guager and filled this position until Mr. Cleveland's first term of office. For years he has been prominently connected with Quinn Chapel, and variously associating himself with measures affecting his people's interest. He is the night custodian of the Bank of Kentucky.

**Rev Bartlet Taylor**, it is said is worth $15,000. Before the war he was a butcher and had a stall in the market house on Market street near Floyd.

**Miss Lucretia G. Gibson**, gives to Louisville an elocutionist of ability. She has held an appointment for some time as a teacher in the city schools and utilizes her vacations by attending reading schools.

**Thomas West** enjoys a wealth of $5,000 which he has accumulated since the war. He can read and write.

**Henry Calbert** is worth $10,000 and has no education of any consequence. He has been the coachman in the Guthrie family for years, and started out in life in 1866 without a dollar and now enjoys this snug little fortune, He is well known and has the confidence of his people.

**William Coleman** is the wealthiest young man in the city. He controls property on Green street between Fourth and Fifth, and eight houses in the east end which fully cover $16,000.

**Stephen Callaway** was born in Henry county, Kentucky, and acquired a limited education in this city. He has been in the employ of a photographer for fifteen years. For the last ten years he has been taking photographs and thoroughly understands the business. Recently he did a large amount of work at Lakeland and the plates for the half-tone of the compiler of this production was made by him. He is employed as packer at W. D. Gatchell's & Sons Photograph Supply house.

**Mrs. Jane McKamey's** name will be handed down to postrity. She was the first matron of the Orphan's Home, and after a service of ten years, resigned and accepted the matronship at the State University, which position she filled for six years and was forced to resign on the account of failing health. Her chances for an education were slim: she had a three months schooling, and with what knowledge she gained from the Sunday-school, she advanced enough to read and write. She taught Sunday-school up until the time she secured the position at the Orphans' Home, where she organized and conducted a successful Sunday-school.

**Mrs. Josephine Kemp** was for three years the maid of "Lotta" the great actress. She traveled over this continent and Australia and had an extensive acquaintance with theatrical people. She is a hair washer and dresser, and several years ago learned the art of manicure in New York City. She is now a professional and is the pioneer of the business in this city. She was a slave and her education is limited. During her travels she employed her spare time in writing poetry, which was published by Lotta in leaflet form and on one occasion one of her compositions was used by the company in a song.

**Miss Lucy DuValle** commands the largest salary of any of our friends in the city. She was assigned September 1890, as principal of the California Colored School and secures a salary of $1,250 per annum. She was educated in the city schools and it is said is as competent as any of the colored principals.

**Knox Presbyterian Church**—Madison street between Eleventh and Twelfth streets was first started in the old church on Green street below Ninth, at present used as a blacksmith shop. Rev. J. T. Riley was the organizer and pastor in 1870. The congregation later moved in to the present occupied building and June 17, 1879, Mr. Andrew Ferguson purchased this church edifice from the German Methodist congregation paying them in cash $4,880 and in January 1889 Mr. Ferguson transferred to R. M. Ingals, H. V. Loving, H. S. Irwin, John F. Lewis (white) and Clarance Miller (colored) trustees, the property to be held in trust and used as a colored Presbyterian church and congregation in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States of America.

Rev. Riley was succeeded by Rev. W. H. Hargrave who resigned to fill a chair in the Presbyterian College in North Carolina. Rev. Turner was the temporary pastor. Rev. S. P. Parr is the present pastor, he is a graduate of Lincoln College and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

**James Brown** is a young man who is destined to become a great artisan. He has been employed at J. K. Lemons & Son as porter and packer for five years, and has since learned quite well the art of repairing clocks, watches and articles of jewelry. He is a Tennesseian by birth, is twenty-six years old, and was educated in the Louisville city schools.



**Prof. John M. Maxwell** has been for eighteen years the principal of what is known as the Central High School. He is a native of Ohio and was the second principal of this school. He ranks high as an educator of the state and has the distinction of being one of the best grammarians of his race. He was absent from this building for three terms, so well was he adapted to the work at this school the Board of Education re-elected him to the principalship. He was the first president of the colored Y. M. C. A., and was for a number of years Treasurer of the Colored Orphans' Home. He is highly respected.

**George Murphy**—Fewer men of no learning has made equal steps to those of this man, he came to Louisville in 1869, without money or friends, but set to work at anything he could find to do. He served for years as coachman to Major Wright's family, sexton of the Broadway Methodist Church and is at present filling a similar place at Fourth and Walnut street Baptist Church which he has held for years. He has been identified with the various movements for his peoples' good in the city, and has been one of the most zealous workers for the Colored Orphans' Home, he has been on the Board of Directors for years and chairman of an important committee. Several years ago he bought an excellent lot on Broadway between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets and erected an extraordinary eight room brick building, which is occupied by his family. He is popular and favorably liked.

**Andrew Ferguson** was an old and highly respected citizen, he was a slave, and in 1852 was sent to Africa by the Colonization Society, which gave him his freedom. He returned to America after one year locating in Paris, Kentucky, later at Cincinnati, and came to Louisville at the beginning of the war.

He held a position as porter in the Northern Bank and followed Janitorship throughout his life time. At his death (in 1896), he was worth quite a little fortune, and had been economizing on all occasions. Mr. Adolph Schmidt, formerly President of the First National Bank, was sought as soon as Mr. Ferguson could get a hundred dollars together, who properly invested it for him. He was the most noble colored man in the city, he gave $4,880 to his church (Knox Presbyterian), and at his death gave $500 to his pastor, $100 each to the Colored Orphans' Home and Old Folks' Home, and paid many incidental debts of his church. He was truly a philanthropist and not a miser as some would say. His act was a good one and is entitled to appreciation by every lover of the cause of charities.

**Dr. Joseph Owsley**, it is said has a fortune at his finger's ends. He has been employed in the Jefferson family for thirty-one years, and as an evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by Mr. Jefferson, he willed him fifty dollars a year during his life. He is the manufacturer of an excellent blood-purifier, and an appetizing tonic, for men, women and children, known as Owsley's Spring Bitters, which has been pronounced a very superior medicine.

**Prof. C. H. Parrish**, A. B A. M., is admired not only by the Kentuckians, but has the high consideration of the educators, both white and black, of the country. Beginning at the bottom round of the ladder in life, that of a "hewer of wood" and drawer of water," he has reached the Zenith, that of the presidency of one of the foremost schools for his people. He came to Louisville in 1880, entered the State Baptist College, graduating with high honors in 1886, his matchless address at the commencement exercises still rings in the ears of those who heard it. He engaged with the late Dr. W. J. Simmons in educational work at the Eckstein Norton College, and at the death of Dr. Simmons was elected president. He is a lover of his race and deeply interested in its progress. He grasps every opportunity and is among the first to give his assistance to any movement of advancement. He ranks high among the believers in the church of his choice, and has won the respect and confidence of all denominations, creeds and religions. He thoroughly considers all sides, and, if he is needed at any time, to speak a word or do a deed, even in the political arena, to push forward his race, he does not shrink from the task. Through him the Eckstein Laundry was started in this city. It is our greatest pleasure at all times to add a good word for one who is not an adopted son of the soil of Henry Clay, the immortal Lincoln and other illustrious men, but, who is a native-born, and has by dint of hard labor achieved greatness.

**Augustus J. Carpenter** has displayed great genius in the invention of a surgical appliance, comprising a bed-bottom provided with an opening, and head-board provided with means for adjusting its incumbent, the bed-bottom can be elevated or lowered, a removable cushion and an opening registering with the opening in the bottom, and a commode removably arranged beneath the registering. It is pronounced by leading physicians, who have examined it, as a most useful device for the sick room and especially in cases where the patient can't be removed from the bed. Mr. Carpenter is daily in receipt of letters and communications regarding his invention, and has had some very flattering offers. He is forty-four years of age, was born and reared in New Albany, Indiana. He is intelligent and has a commanding apperance, but unfortunately has not had the advantage of much education. He has two other arrangements which he says he will soon make application for patent letters. He came to Louisville in 1890 and conducts the Louisville Shaving Parlor on Market between Third and Fourth streets.

**Prof. J. J. C. McKinley** who has been connected with the city schools for twenty-two years, has successfully principaled the Portland colored school for years. He is a barber by trade and was a student at Berea College for a short while and is consequently a self-made man. He has for sixteen consecutive years filled the position of State Grand Secretary of Odd Fellows, and is the author of a historical sketch of the Odd Fellows of America. He has been re-elected vice-president of the colored orphans' for a second term. He is bright, intelligent, capable and is calculated to do much good for his people.

**William D. Evans** who received his education in the city schools is very scholarly. He has a natural gift at marking and has the reputation of being the most artistic sign writer of his race in the city.

**Halls**—The first effort at buying a hall for lodge purposes was made by the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. The importance of such a project was discussed by prominent members of the order for several years: in 1880 Union lodge appointed a committee on ways and means. The lodge, with St. Luke, St. John and other lodges were incorporated Sept 17th, 1880, and a two story brick dwelling was purchased on Green street near Fourteenth, for $2,500, with a cash payment of $700. The purchase of this property greatly electrified the colored citizens, it was regarded as a noble effort. An inducement was made to the order for the purchase of the old Eclipse Building, Thirteenth and Walnut streets. On October 25th, 1885, this property was bargained for at $10,000 with a payment of $2,500. In March, 1890, the building was destroyed by the cyclone. Additional ground was bought and a new building, much larger, erected in 1891, three stories, modernly built, lodge rooms, a music hall with a seating capacity of seven hundred with opera chairs, a complete stage arrangement, banquet hall, and store fronts The erection of this building cost $17,000, the property is now estimated at $35,000.

United Brothers of Friendship followed suit on July 6th, 1886. They bargained for the large store front building at the south east corner of Ninth and Magazine for $8,000 with a cash payment of $1,500. The release to this property was made February 6th, 1891. Present value, $10,000.

Independent Sons of Honor purchased a brick building, (store front) of two stories on Broadway between Eighth and Ninth streets, October 19, 1888, paying $4,500 with $1,200 in cash. The release was made August 28, 1896. Probable value at present $6,000.

Masonic Hall on Sixth street between Walnut and Grayson which was a large two story brick building was bought November 27, 1894, the purchase price being $3,500 of which $688 was paid cash. Present value, $4,000. We have four lodge halls owned and controlled by colored Fraternities. The total amount of this property with the improvements is set down at $55,000.

**Rev. E. P. Marrs, D. D.,** is the popular pastor of the Beargrass Baptist Church; he is a native of Shelby county, served two years in the late war, and was commissioned Quartermaster Sergeant. He taught his first school in Shelby county, and was a hard student at the same time himself, his qualifications at that time being very limited. He is the author of a personal history and is one of the leading Baptist ministers of the state, and has a national popularity. Seventeen years, secretary of the Central Baptist Association; eleven years treasurer of the State Baptist Association, and served several years on the executive committee. He is one of our affluent citizens and has property to the amount of $10,000. He is an able speaker, much of a theological reasoner and is highly esteemed by his church, and the public. The degree of D. D., was confered upon him by Cadiz College in 1892. He is a sample of negro progression since the war.



**George Buckner** is an old resident of this city has followed draying for forty years. The cost of his freedom was $1,200 of which his father paid $600, leaving a balance of $600, which was paid by the subject of this sketch, three years after emancipation. He was a pupil in Rev. Henry Adam's school for a short time, and is to-day quite well to do. He conducts a hotel on Broadway between Eighth and Ninth streets, owns $16,000 in real estate and $6,000 in stocks and bonds. He has been a great support to the Independant Sons of Honor.

**I. E. Masterson** has a tailor's establishment at the corner West and Walnut streets. He attended the Tuskeege Industrial College and mastered his trade. He had a class in tailoring at the College for eighteen months.

**Alexander Wilson** is the electrician at the *Courier-Journal* building. He is not employed on account of color or politics but because he is proficient and capable. The full line of lights, the immense dynamos and electric machinery are in his charge.

**Fifteenth Street A. M. E. Z., Church**—This was the first church of the Zion connection erected in the State of Kentucky. January 30, 1867 the present place of Worship, Fifteenth street between Walnut and Grayson was bargained for at $1,400 one-third cost. The trustees who figured in the purchase and whose names went to record were: Peter Lewis, Jackson Burks, Hampshill Camick, Thomas Henry, Anderson Duson. A neat frame church was erected. As this was the second church in the city to be supplied with a pipe organ, added much to its popularity. When the congregation desired to move in larger and more commodious quarters, a large number of the old founders of the church went against the sale, and the general conference sustained the Bishop and the original founders. Since the withdrawal of the Twelfth street Church, the strength of the church has been greatly impared. Bishop Alexander Walters of Jersey City, New Jersey pastored the church in 1883, and quite an interest was exerted at that time. Last year Rev. A. Mason recovered the church, decorated the interior and placed a cupelo on the old building, which makes an excellent and commanding appearance. Rev. A. Mason is in charge at present and the membership is on the increase.

**Y. M. C. A.**—Several years ago efforts were put forth to permanently establish a Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. Albert Mack took an active part in the work, and aroused some interest. January 16th, 1893 the work was properly organized and has been thoroughly and firmly established, which has been countenanced by the management of the white Association, and one of the most earnest advocates was Mr. John L. Wheat. The quarters are at 942 West Walnut street, where they have splendid reading rooms with a great many papers on file and a well established library, bath rooms, amusement departments, etc

**Church of Our Merciful Savior**—The old blacksmith shop, on Green near Ninth street which has sheltered so many congregations, was used in 1865 as a place of worship for a colored Episcopal Mission. The first rector was Dr. Waller who was superseded by Rev. James Atwell (colored) who was ordained by Bishop Smith at the old St. Paul Church, corner Sixth and Walnut. The services were continued here, later the church was without a minister and a Mr. David Straker was lay reader. These premises were abandoned and a school for both sexes opened on Eighth between Grayson and Walnut in 1870.

In September, 1870, Dr. Norton, with his private means bought a lot on Madison between Ninth and Tenth streets. A building was erected on this lot and in November the school was transferred from Eighth street to the new place on Madison street. This school soon furnished a nucules for a Sunday-school and mission, out of which grew and developed the present congregation of the church. For years it was pastored by white clergymen and laymen, and was continued by the support of Dr. Norton in prosperity and adversity, and finally developed into a strong and independent parish by the addition of a number of influential and intelligent people of our race.

A claim was set up by the communicants that they desired one of their own race

to minister unto them. The Bishop regarded this as a most natural wish, and as soon as possible a colored minister was assigned to the work. In 1890 the Rev. A. C. Brown (colored vicar) was appointed. During the same year, through the indefatigable labors of Bishop T. U. Dudley, the present property occupied by the congregation was purchased at a cost of $17,000 and improvements amounting to $5,000 were made upon it. Rev. A. C. Brown remained with the congregation until 1893, when he resigned. He was immediately succeeded by the Rev. T. J. Brown, the present colored priest. The church building is large and commodious, and was formerly used by a white Presterian congregation. It is located on the corner of Eleventh and Walnut streets. They have a well regulated choir, Mr. Wm. Reinecke (white) organist. The Rev. Mr. Brown is well educated, a polished and Christian gentleman.

**Isaac Curtis** came to the city before the war. He bought himself for $1,300, and walked six miles on Sundays to a person who gave lessons in reading and writing. He is said to have the most complete cabinet of geologist collections of any colored man in the State. He has figured in politics for years.

**Masons**—Mt. Moriah was the first lodge of colored masons organized in Kentucky which was June 12, 1847. Its first meetings were held in New Albany, Ind., until 1851 when they were moved to this city, meetings were held on Walnut near Ninth, Fourth between Walnut and Green streets, Third and Market, and Seventh and Grayson. The first officers of the lodge were, Rev. Levi Fvans, worshipful master: Wm. Butcher, treasurer; Wm. H. Gibson, secretary; John Lacey, Willis Fowles, Henry Cozzens. Three new lodges were eventually orgauized on account of the increase.

Persuant to a call of a masonic convention held in the summer of 1866 the several lodges met in January, 1867 and organized a State Grand Lodge, the following officers were elected: Jesse Meriwether, M. W. G. M.; Rev. Levi Evans, R. W. D. G. M.; Wm. Butcher, R. W. G. Treasurer; G. A. Schaefer, R. W. G. Secrerary. A procession was formed which marched to Fifth-street Baptist Church, where the grand officers were installed publicly January 31, 1867.

In 1875 Rev. J. L. H. Sweres, who had located in the city from Ohio, with the assistance of some leading citizens procured a sufficient number of persons, and a lodge of masons, under the jurisdiction of Ohio, was set up by State Grand Master W. H. Parham, of Cincinnati. The institution of this lodge was the cause of two more lodges (Mt. Olive and Southern Cross), later two Knights Templar Commandries were organized, which gave to Kentucky the first colored Knights Templar Commandery. The establishment of these lodges, under Ohio jurisdiction, brought about strife and contention between the old and young masons, which lasted until 1893, when a goodly number of the brethren, desiring to more fully protect the principles and defend the ties of masonry, resolve to make an effort to have all the lodges in Louisville and Kentucky under the jurisdiction the State Grand Lodge in the State in which they lived. Armed with the proper credentials the three masters of Parham, Mt. Olive and Southern Cross met the Ohio State Grand Lodge at Greenfield, August, 1893, and made known the wishes and inclinations of their brethren in Kentucky. Great opposition was raised against the movement, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was unwilling to give up her subordinates in Kentucky. As told us by an eye-witness to the controversy it would furnish very racy reading matter for the public—but it is unmasonic to publish secret proceedings. Much credit is due the masters for the noble fight they made to carry into effect the wishes of their brethren. Brother G. A. Carter, on his return, was congratulated on his manly stand and unceasing efforts. The consummation of this struggle put seven lodges and four commandaries in Louisville under the grand bodies of Kentucky, and the three great principles of masonry—*Brotherly Love*, *Relief* and *Truth*—can be more fully exemplified. There are now forty-five warranted and three dispensated lodges with 1,300 members in the State. The grand officers are Chas. Steele, M. W. G. M., George Sutton, R. W. D. M.; J. W. Hillman, R. W. G. T.; W. Pratt Annis, R. W. G. S.

**Music and Musical People**—It is generally conceded that the colored people have a natural gift for music, and, as singers, have no equals as a race. There are a great number of young girls who have received no training scarcely but have charmed great audiences by the natural range of their voices. The piano, organ, brass and stringed instruments have been very skillfully handled, and by many who had no instruction. Fifty years ago there was but one piano in a colored family's house in Louisville, and to-day, as estimated by a music dealer and others of authority, over a thousand pianos and organs are in use by the colored people.



Miss Eliza Davenport is an accomplished pianoist and organist. She has given much time to the study at the Chicago Conservatory of Music.

Mrs. Dr. E. S. Porter is one of the leading singers of the city. She was educated in the city schools and was a pupil of Madame Fonda. She frequently sings at the leading musical entertainments of our people and is quite a favorite.

Mrs. Luella Jones ranks high as a pianoist and solo artist. She began the study of the piano in Indianapolis under a French teacher, and had a splendid training in voice culture. She was in preparation for the stage, but abandoned the idea to accept a position in the city schools.

Miss Lizzie Evans, *nee* Hick, plays well the large organ at Jacob-street Church. She like thousands of others, had only the parental care of a mother and her chances were limited. She developed into a very attractive singer and had quite a fancy for the organ. By the kind permission of the members of the church she used their organs for practice, and succeeded in mastering the reed organ. She was selected by the Sunday-school as its organist and subsequently elected organist for the church.

Mrs Mamie E. Steward is an excellent pianoist and organist, and is the instructor of music at the State University, she is classed among the leading performers,

Mrs. S. Gertie Hutchison has the reputation of being the ablest pianoist in the city, and her performance has passed the most rigid musical critics. She filled a year's engagement with the Fisk Jubilee Singers as pianoist in 1884.

Madame Mary L. Mead was at one time the leading soprano at the Fifth-street Baptist Church and her singing attracted large crowds. She had no special training in music, but while employed as seamstress by Mrs. J. Watts Kearney was given an opportunity to listen to an Italian instructor in voice culture from an adjoining room. She has an environed reputation as a singer.

The Beethovan singing Club was organized at the Lampton-street Baptist Church by Prof. Balkman, and is composed of juvenile singers. It is entering on its second year.

The Mendelssohn Singing Association is a well perfected society, which has been in existence five years. It was organized by H.C. Weeden and Rev. W. H. Chambers with thirty members. H. C. Weeden was elected president and Prof. S. D. Balkman, director. The Association has distinguished itself for singing, and has filled many engagements. It is still in a flourishing condition.

The Juvenile Choir of Fifth-street Baptist Church was organized in the spring of 1896, and is composed of a very competent corps of young singers. General Taylor Diehl is the director.

The late George A. Schæfer was the first colored man to perform by note on a piano in this city, which was in 1849.

W. H. Gibson gave instructions on the guitar in 1847.

A. M. Gilbert, of St. Louis, was the first colored person to teach music to the colored people in Louisville. He held his classes in various houses, at different times, in the early forties.

In 1847 there were only two colored musicians in Louisville, Messrs Henry Williams and James Cunningham.

Miss Nellie L. Frey is one of the leading vocal teachers in the city. She has large classes, and is also a teacher of the piano and organ. She is a teacher in the day schools.

Miss Martha Morton was the first colored lady in the city to perform on a pipe organ.

Prof. Andrew Bell is a professional pianoist and a popular teacher of piano music. He is also organist at St. Augustine church.

The Treble Cleft Club is an organization of ladies who have banded themselves together for mutual improvement, and to study the authors of music. The talented pianoist and organist, Miss Eliza Davenport, is the director.

**Centre-street C. M. E. Church**, which is situated on Centre near Green street, is generally known as the historical church among the colored people of Louisville, and, it is said, was the first colored congregation in the State. In 1831 or 1832 the congregation was formed on Market between Eighth and Ninth streets, which met in the old church-house used by the white Methodists. April 10, 1835, Wash Spradling, who was a free black, leased a lot on Eleventh between Chestnut and Madison streets, to Edward Duncan, Austin Woolfolk, John Jacks and himself (free men) to be used for a term of eighteen years, without pay, for African Methodist Church purposes The deed was acknowledged in the presence of Richard Tydings and Peter Booth by each one making his mark. As these men were all free there was some doubt about Mr. Spradling, and he was compelled to prove himself a free man before the matter was settled. A frame building was erected on the lot and services were conducted by Ben Gant, Peter Booth, Henry Tilford, Henry Scott, John Jackson and others.

This church was a free church, and the slave-holders became somewhat alarmed, and thought it unwise for their slaves to attend a church of this description. They set to work, and on April 10, 1845, bought a lot and built a church on the present site of Centre-street Church. The building was a one-story structure, the entrance in the alley which lies north of the present edifice; windows opened on Centre street and on the east side, the pews were ordinarily built with stripe backs and the natural earth made the floor. A cash payment of $40 was made on the ground with three notes of $150 each. The trustees were all white men.

After some time the one-story church was torn away and the present building erected, with steps running from Centre street pavement to the entrance up stairs. The congregation was pastored by Father Green, Peter Booth, Henry Lytle and others. The church was made larger by an addition to the rear end. In 1860 the steps were removed and an entrance made from the inside to the second story.

In 1864 there was no appointment made to this church, and the Rev. Richard Bridwell called on Rev. Thomas Bottomley, the (white) presiding elder, who informed him he could not provide for the white churches and that he must look out for himself. Shortly after this Rev. Thomas James came to the city, as United States Marshal, and getting control of the men in the slave-pens enrolled them as soldiers, selecting Centre street Church as a rendezvous for the wives and children of these men. This being a strong incentive for the leadership of the colored people his egress was quite easy (being at that time a representative of the A. M. E. Z. Church) he prevented the discipline of this church and 600 communicants endorsed it, seeking shelter under her wings. There was one desenting voice—Mrs Ann Davis— and this formed the basis for a long, protracted law suit, known as the Watson and others vs. Peter Lewis, J. Burks, etc.

Rev. William F. Butler was the first Zion minister placed in charge of Centre-street Church, he remained two years and defended the church. The late Bishop W. H. Miles succeeded Rev. Butler as pastor, and Rev. W T. Biddle was assigned to the Fifteenth-street church, which was in corse of erection, but resigned and formed an alliance with the M E. Church (south) in the Ann Davis suit, which was a year later decided in favor of the M E. Church. This left the Zion members at Centre street without a house to worship in.

This church is widely known, in which a great many meetings of various kinds have been held. The pulpit has been filled by some very able men, among whom might be mentioned, Dr. M. C. Pierce, J. W. Bell, J. H. Bell, E B. Martin, Dr. J. J. Bowman, S. B. Wallace and Dr. C. H. Phillips. Rev. J. W. Luckett is the present pastor. The church has been recently beautified, refitted with new gas fixtures and presents a handsome and neat appearance.

In 1848 this church was known as the John Wesley Temple, Rev. Peter Booth was the pastor, assisted by C. Barber, Benj. Gant, Henry Henderson and H Scott.

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## The Colored People's Wealth Fifty Years Ago and at Present, Religious Strength, Population, Vote, Lodges, Etc.

Histories of all nations are exposed in print. In the last few years quite a number of books have been published upon the condition, progress and achievements of the colored people. These works have been of a general nature, selecting and making



sketches of colored women, men and institutions throughout the United States. From the introduction of slavery into this country, which was in 1620, gave it twenty nogroes when they were emancipated, in 1865, the negro population was estimated to be 4,000,000, which now exceeds 8,000,000. They have made rapid advancement. We have abler preachers than we did thirty-two years ago, more capable teachers, good clerks, skilled mechanics, engineers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, and men fitted for drivers of wagons, drays and carts, from the fact that they can read and write, which makes them more apt for their duties. In Louisville we have women and men following and filling various avocations, whose duties are as well discharged and whose capabilities are equal to those of equal opportunities. The education which our girls and boys are receiving daily is doing much to detort from them the roughness handed down by untutored mothers and fathers for which they were inculpable. Ere long the colored people of this community will be more polished and refined attain greater thrift.

In 1847 there were 155 free colored people in the city. The amount of property, on the Assessor's books charged to the colored people at that time, foots up $25,709, of which Wash Spradling controlled $9,325 worth. In 1866 the colored population of the city was estimated at 15,000; four Methodist and three Baptist churches; ninety-five tax-payers, forty paid taxes on improvements to the amount of $37,300, fifty-five on real estate which amounted to $174,410, total amount of property $211,710; Wash Spradling owned twenty-eight houses and lots which were rated by the assessor at $71,952. The present population is put down at 40,162; 8,900 voters; 15,387 church members, 6,500 Sunday-school scholars; twenty-three Baptist churches, members 8,837, probable value of property $86,000; fourteen Methodist churches (including the Congregationalists) 5,621 members, church property valued at $106,400; Episcopal church 150 members, property valued at $22,000; Presbyterian and two Christian churches, members 400, property valued at $10,900; a Catholic Sabbathtean and two or three other denominations of which the membership is estimated at 1,000.

There are 15,239 colored children of school age, 7,706 females, 7,533 males. The lodges number sixty-seven, with 7,537 members, divided into Masons, Odd Fellows, United Brothers of Friendship, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Tabor, Good Samaritans, True Reformers, Independent Sons of Honor, Sons and Daughters of Union, Sons and Daughters of Morning, Ladies' Beneficial Society, Sons and Daughters of Charity, Sons and Daughters of Aaron, Sons and Daughters of Bethel, Daughters of Calvary, Christian Mutual.

United Sisters of Friendship, Ladies' Union Band, Hod-Carriers Union, Teamsters Union, Coopers' Union, and many other secret and benevolent societies. These organizations have been of great benefit to our people, they pay strict attention to the sick, and bury the dead.

The present wealth of the colored people has been carefully estimated and arranged as follows: four hundred persons at $1,000, $400,000; twenty-five persons at $2,000, $50,000; ten persons at $3,000, $30,000; six persons at $5,000, $30,000; five persons at $8,000, $40,000. Total $550,000, including the church and lodge property owned, make an aggregation of $829,900, to say nothing of the household goods, pianos, organs, wagons, and carts in our people's possession in the city.

**Louisville National Medical College**—No doubt a good many people are unaware that we have here in Louisville a college of this nature. The college is located on Green between First and Second streets, and was purchased by the trustees as a permanent place for the school. It is a large two-and-a-half story brick building and is well adapted for this purpose. The first session of the school was conducted in the United Brothers' of Friendship Hall, Ninth and Magazine streets, in 1888-89, and the first commencement was held in Centre-street Church which was witnessed by a large audience. Six was the number of graduates who had previously studied medicine in other colleges. The institution was incorporated by the Legislature in 1888, and properly recognized by the State authorities and throughout the country in common with other colleges of like character. Forty-three persons, including the class of 1896, have graduated from this college, representing twelve States and the West Indies. To Dr. Henry Fitzbutler is due much credit for the establishment and success of this school.

**Tolbert Jordan** has been employed at the City Hall nine years. He had full charge of the Kenyon building. He is a high mason, and has acquired property.

**Prof. W. H. Perry** is a native of Indiana. He came to the city years ago, and passed through the Colored High School when it was first established. He was appointed a teacher in the Western School in 1877, taught at the Central in 1880, became principal of the Eastern in 1890, was transferred to the Western as principal and is the encumbent to-day. The degree of A. M. was conferred upon him by the State University and he holds the degree of LL. B. from the Central Law School. He is a member of the Chautauqua Library and Scientific Circle class of 1893, and is occupying the position of M. E. Grand Commander Knight Templars of the State of Kentucky. He has been a successful principal and has filled his places creditably.

**Prof. Frank L. Williams** is thirty-three years old. He entered the public schools in 1873 and passed through them within a few mouths of completion of the course. He attended a Normal school in Indiana where he did his first teaching. He afterward matriculated at Berea College where he graduated with the highest honors from the classical course. He has since been teacher, Y. M. C. A. secretary and Institute iustructor for Kentucky. He takes much delight in conducting institutes and is a capable man for this task. He has a bright future, and as a young man can, if he will, become a leader for the young men of the city.

**Baptist Row**—The new row of houses on the south side of Madison street from East street to the City Hospital, marks the spot known to many by the two first words of this article. The quarters were similarly built to those in Smoketown. On the south-east corner of East and Madison streets there stood upon an elevation, six feet high, what was known as Boone's Hotel. A school was carried on by an old lady by the name of Sister Pendy in a little cottage near the hospital, and a singing-school was conducted by Jesse Davis in a cottage which was on the rear of his lot midway the block. "We boys" thought we were all right when we could go to "choir school." The money invested in this property, after the war, was also unfortunately placed, and another drawback to our people was experienced. Reverses became common, and practical knowledge was at a premium. Thus, the colored man was educated.

**Brownstown**—This settlement was located on Second between Magnolia and Shipp streets, which is now a fashionable neighborhood of the city. The town derived its name from a man by the name of Brown, who was among the first to settle there and who was considered a leader. The frame houses were not modernly built, but afforded a comfortable place in which to live. Mr. Brown furnished the people in the neighborhood with water drayed in an old-fashioned cart. There were about 500 inhabitants in the town and two churches, the Baptist pastored by Rev. Chas. Oldham, and the A. M. E. Z Methodist, which was bought June 24, 1874, Rev. Jerry Washington was pastor. Mr. Julius Stege's residence is now located on this lot. The property followed suit of the Smoketown and Baptist Row towns. The money invested faded away and was lost. There yet remain five families who, by some means, held on to their claims. Certainly this was the most valuable property the colored people had claims on since the war in a settlement.

**Prof. A. E. Meyzeek** is a new acquisition to the educational interest of our people. He came to Louisville in 1890 from Terre Haute, Ind., where he was for six years principal of the Fourteenth District School. He visited Louisville before as the representative of the United States Publishing Company, being the only colored man on the road for work in the county teacher's institutes.

He was offered a position in our schools, and was assigned to the principalship of Malden Lane School. After remaining there one year he was transferred to the Western, and later to the Eastern Colored School where he remained two years with credit. He was given charge of the Central High School which position he filled very acceptably for three years. While principal of this school he organized a separate and distinct department of work—established a working reference library, at a cost of $300, and also improved the laboratory and machinery, it being a factor of school work. He was afterward made principal of the Eastern School District where he is doing good service.

Mr. Meyzeek was educated in the mixed schools of Indiana and Ohio, graduating at Terre Haute and later finished his schoolastic career in the Indiana State Normal College. He read law in the office of Lamb, (Senator) Vorhees & Mack, intending to educate himself for a lawyer, but later found his vocation in the schools. He has been prominent and actively engaged in affairs pertaining to his people, and is a mason of high standing, having advanced to the 32d degree.

## WEEDEN'S EDICT.

There is much speculation regarding the Negro's future in this country. Many conflicting reports have been advanced, some contending that we are growing better and others announce us worse. That we are improving there is little difference of opinion. Our advancement for thirty-two years is a testimonial of this fact. If the Negro problem is to be solved, it must be accomplished by the Negroes themselves. We admit there are sins of omission and commission in our ranks, and that we are subject to alluring influences as others. We must acknowledge that we have a duty to perform, the performance of which calls forth the efforts of every intelligent woman and man of our race. The proper regard and appreciation of one another is an important factor in our behalf. **A race divided against itself—distrust, deceitfulness, bigotry, selfishness, "I know it all," striving to keep one another from advancing educationally and finincially, and if I can't lead you shan't, and generally disturbing and forestalling another's progress—have greatly marred our onward march. So long these evil characteristics exist among us, so long will we be ostracised, maligned, and ill-treated by our brother Caucasian.**

The Negro wants the support of the whites of this country, and if our interests and progress are greatly affected, demoralized, effaced and debased on the account of politics we ought not hesitate to step down and out.

While we refrain from discussing politics, we are well aware that the franchise given to our race was not made as a binding obligation of our vote, but it was given to us in good faith for the purpose of having us take proper care of our interests in this country. We are all american citizens.

Detained as chattles and enslaved nearly two and a half centuries, without experience as citizens, many disadvantages confront us. Therefore, we stand in need of all political parties of the people of the United States. Our preachers are doing much to stimulate our people through their pulpits, and it would be none amiss for them to double their efforts in this particular. We are sorry it is true that too little interest is manifested in the race's behalf by a large per cent. of our teachers, and especially on the part of the males who ought to be the very leaders. They should be identified with every movement or enterprise which would have a tendency to benefit our people. They come to our city seeking employment and should give effort and countenance to the church work and measures which would advance our people, they should take the front rank as the best informed of our race with their talents and time. We can not see how this would be an encroachment on the part of our teachers to be interested in the race. We are quite sure it would not lower the dig-

nity of the office nor detract from it, but would add honor, and much respectability would be extended from an unfortunate people. We trust that a better interest, abler, and unceasing efforts will be made by our clergymen, educational leaders, and other representatives of the race to push on and forward the cause, for which we speak.

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Dedicated to H. C. Weeden by J. S. Cotter.

**LET NONE IGNOBLY HALT.**

Let none ignobly halt because
They tell us glory's fickle wave
Rolls on in keeping with set laws
And bears but to the cold, dark grave.

For, whatsoever course we take
Leads straight to this unwelcome goal.
So, spur the will and grandly make
The voyage with elated soul.

# APPENDIX.

## Letters from Prominent White Citizens.

*Letter from Colonel R. M. Kelly, Editor-in-Chief of the Louisville Commercial.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., January 18, 1897.

MR. H C. WEEDEN, Louisville, Ky.—*My Dear Sir*—Yours of this date advising me that you were about to publish a succinct history of the colored people of Louisville (showing what they have done since emancipation) has just come to hand. I wish you success. The facts fully told should inspire them. They, and the colored people of the United States have advanced more rapidly since their emancipation than the serfs of Russia have since they were freed; which shows, among other things, how *free* institutions afford many disadvantages.

Very respectfully yours, R. M. KELLY.

*Letter from Mr. Richard W. Knott, Editor of the Louisville Evening Post.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 4, 1897.

H C. WEEDEN—*Dear Sir:* I learn that you are to prepare a history of the colored people of Louisville. I trust the work will be done with thoroughness, care and impartiality. It should, in that case, arouse the interest and the pride of the colored people, and meet with the hearty support of all citizens. With best wishes for the success of this undertaking, I am, yours truly,

RICHARD W. KNOTT.

*Letter from Colonel Bennett H. Young, Attorney and Counsellor, ex-President of the K. and I. Bridge Company, and ex-President of Louisville Southern Railroad.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 18, 1897.

H. C. WEEDEN, ESQ —*Dear Sir:* I have examined a part of the proof-sheets of your "History of the Colored People of Louisville," and I think the idea of getting up this history a most excellet one, stimulating, as it will, the pride and ambition of the colored people of this city. The information which you have gathered will be very valuable among all the people of your race at this time as well as for the future, and I congratulate you upon the success of your work. Whatever helps in any way, or ennobles the colored people of this city should be encouraged by every citizen. The racial question has long since been settled and the colored people are part and parcel of the American people and whatever concerns them concerns every man who lives in the Republic. To help them to educate themselves and to prepare themselves for usefulness in all walks of life, should be not only considered the duty but the privilege of every Kentuckian. The improvement of the condition of the colored race in all aspects, in the past twenty years, is such as to make the colored citizens of Louisville look back with a just feeling of pride that so much has been accomplished in so short a time.

I had occasion a few months ago to deliver a commencement address before a large audience of colored people at Masonic Temple. To see the behavior and intelligence and the dress of the thousand colored men and women thus assembled gave me profound satisfaction. I have never appeared before any audience that gave me closer attention, manifested more appreciation, or conducted themselves with more propriety than the people who were assembled on this occasion The education of the teachers of the colored schools in our own city and in the State Colored Normal school all show the splendid developement of the colored people in educational matters.

I trust the publication of your work, giving an account of what has been done in the past third of a century by the colored people of Louisville, will be an incentive to higher, better and nobler work on their part, and that all that has been done in their behalf will only more thoroughly fit them for the responsible duties of American citizenship.

Yours truly, BENNETT H. YOUNG.

*Letter from His Honor the Mayor of the City of Louisville, Hon. George D. Todd.*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
LOUISVILLE, KY., February 17, 1897.

MR. H. C. WEEDEN—*Dear Sir*: Agreeable to your request of recent date I hand you herewith an article on the "Past, Present and Future of the Afro-American Race." I would have replied to your request much sooner had I been able to ascertain from your letter just what question you wished me to handle.

Yours respectfully, GEO. D. TODD.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN RACE.

The negro was first introduced in America as a slave in the New England States. After a short service in those states, there was a feeling developed antagonistic to the idea of slavery, which grew to such propotions that those who owned them were placed under the ban of public sentiment. The Yankee, with his customary shrewdness, finding that it was no longer profitable, or rather politic, to own slaves, he immediately sought a favorable market to dispose of his liegemen. This he found in the Southern States, which, at that time, were sparsely settled, and their products in great demand. The negro was just what the cotton and sugar planters needed to cultivate their plantations and they accordingly bought liberally of the Yankee slave-owner. The history of the Afro-American race in the Southern States is too well known in this section to require an extended account of it in this letter. Suffice to say that as a rule they were kindly treated, still this did not alter the fact that the negro was a *slave* and was obliged to obey the slightest wish of his master. In many instances quite an attachment sprang up between master and slave which resulted in practical benefit to both. Some of the masters even went so far as to send the younger set of slaves to school. The beneficiaries repaid the kindness by applying themselves assidiously to their studies, frequently carrying off the honors of their respective classes. One of the worst features of slavery was the separating of families. It sometimes happened that a slave-owner was unfortunate in his business transactions and was compelled to sell some of his slaves to planters residing at some distance from his home. In this way family ties were broken and they were never reunited here below.

Another unfortunate feature was that all masters were not uniformly kind to their slaves and besides maltreating them they gave them no opportunity to acquire even the slightest education; consequently when the negro was finally freed from bondage there were a great many who were unable to shift for themselves. One noticeable fact, which, by-the-way, was very commendable to the race, was that when the slaves were released they observed the strictest economy in order that their children might have the advantages of an education. So much for the past, what of the present?

First of all we find the negro race in the full enjoyment of liberty. No longer bound to any living creature, nor even the subjects of any sovereign, but more free, to all intents and puposes, than the vassals of the hightest civilized nations of Europe. All evidences of slavery have disappeared from the land, and the public have almost forgotten that such a thing ever existed except in the immagination. Long before the ex-slave had secured enough money to build churches, the white people contributed liberally toward the erection of suitable houses for worship. Now there are thousands of churches in the land built by and for the negro race. The same is true of the public schools for the education of the colored children. In addition to these there are a number of universities designed in part or in whole for the enlightment of the colored people. Families are no longer torn asunder except by death. They are permitted to enjoy each others society and share each others sympathy without restraint. The coarse jeans cloth and the checkered linsey garments have, in many instances, been relegated to the past, and now some of the best dressed people to be seen on our streets are negroes.

The negro has taken his place alongside of the descendents of his erstwhile master and his employment is no longer circumbscribed. He works for so much per day or week, and it is optional with him whether he shall use it for the improvement of his condition or waste it like the improvident of other nationalities. He enjoys the fruit of his labor whether it is little or much. In many fields of labor in which he engages he receives the same compensation as do the whites who perform the same kind of service. The great majority are common laborers, not being qualified to hold a higher



place, still there are thousands who are holding responsible positions in every quarter of the United States. There are doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, merchants, shoemakers, artisans of all kinds, miners, clerks, in great numbers, and even in the National House of Representatives there have been, and are yet, members who belong to the negro race. And all these changes have occured within the last thirty years. It seems quite as wonderful as the story of Aladdin's Lamp. In view of the marvelous progress of the race dating from the close of the civil war, what may we reasonably expect of the future. Reasoning from analogy, it seems certain that the negro will occupy a higher plane as soon as he fits himself by education and morals to reach it. Already, in the eyes of the law, he is on a parity with the Caucasian race. It only remains for him to improve himself; to outlive the prejudice of a few old-timers who have ever looked upon a negro as a slave; to win the honor and respect of the people in the communities where he resides, and he will then realize the fruition of his hopes. At present there is too much profligacy; too much ignorance; too much intemperance, on the part of the younger set to obtain that standing in the community which is needful for future prosperity.

The churches and the public schools have a great work to accomplish. The clergy need to emphasize the text, "Knowledge is Power," and to urge upon their membership the importance of sending their children to the public schools. Every parent should see to it that their children attend regularly the exercises of the public as well as the Sabbath-school. With educatian and religion will come enlightment and refinement. Both are indispensable to the future as well as to the present prosperity of the race. Following these will come a call to a higher sphere, more remuneration for work performed, and more satisfactory environments,

Loyalty to the flag caused many ex-slaves to enlist on the side of the Union during the civil war, and it is a matter of history that they acquitted themselves well. The future generations should be taught to honor the Stars and Stripes, and the feeling of patriotism should be inculcated early in the minds and hearts of the young. If these admonitions are heeded and practiced, I predict that the next thirty years will work out results as favorable to the Afro-American race as the past thirty has done.

GEO. D. TODD.

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*Letter from Mr. W. N. Haldeman, President of the Louisville Courier-Journal Company.*

NAPLES, FLORIDA, February 17, 1897.

MR. H. C. WEEDEN—*Dear Sir:* I got your letter before leaving Louisville, but I was sick and so busy getting ready to start to Florida that I was unable to reply to it.

I cordially endorse all said by Captain John H. Leathers of your proposed publication, believing it will be the means of accomplishing much good.

Truly yours, W. N. HALDEMAN.

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*Letter from Hon. Augustus E. Willson, distinguished lawyer and ex-partner of Justice James M. Harlan, of the U. S. Supreme Court.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., January 27, 1897.

H. C. WEEDEN, ESQ.—*My Dear Mr. Weeden*—I have your letter of the 18th, in regard to your "History of the Colored People of Louisville." You are right in your thought that I have taken a sincere interest in their advancement. It has seemed to me one of the most important problems to be worked out in our country, as to what should be the policy of our laws and our business towards the colored people, and it has been a matter of most serious concern to every thoughtful man, who has given attention to such matters, as to what would be their course in the new conditions and problems which confronted them.

It was to be expected that with their inexperience and lack of opportunities for education, there would be many misfortunes, many instances of lack of proper self-control or proper regard for the laws and regulations necessary for the maintenance of social order, and many cases of disregard of laws and rights, just as there would be with other people under the same conditions, but I can and I do gladly say as the result of my observation, my careful and anxious observation since I have lived in Louisville, that there is great reason for satisfaction over the past and hope for the future in the progress of the Negro race here and I believe throughout the country.

It can not be disputed that nearly all of them are orderly, law-abiding, industrious and kindly, and that to an exceptional degree, whenever the question is presented to them, as a race or individually, between what is safe and right and what is unsafe and wrong, between that which puts them among those whom it is pleasant and honorable to be with and those whom it is unpleasant to be with, that their instinct and their choice generally turns to the better side and not to the worse.

During the last election every colored voter, I do not remember a single exception and never heard of one, stood like a granite wall on the side of good government, law and order, honest money and the protection of American industry. I never heard of an exception, I never expect to; and I shall never forget a conversation I had election night in a company where there were present three or four Republicans and three or four times as many Democrats, some of them old Confederate soldiers and all of them most earnest Democrats by conviction, when one of them turned to me and said: "Mr. Willson, ever since I came to vote I have been angry and harsh about the negroes voting, but it is a great fact that their fidelity to their convictions of duty and their natural sympathy with the better elements and their natural inclination to follow the advice and example of the best people that they know has turned the scale in favor of honest money and in favor of law and order, as against repudiation, lawlessness and anarchy." It was a frank admission from an honest man who had too long been governed by prejudice.

It seems to me that every self-respecting negro can take great hope in the future of his people and in his own chances for a useful and happy life. That there are in the race qualities of kindliness, of good will to others, of fidelity to friendship and duty, of courage and of a sense of right and wrong, and of a natural tendency to ally themselves with those who wish to do right, which gives all the right to hope, prosperity, advancement, the blessings of education and the good will and esteem of their neighbors throughout the land.

I do not wish this letter to be all complimentary. I do not wish any negro to feel that the problem is solved. It will still require so much more of patience, so much more of self-denial and self-control and so much more of hard work, learning to labor and to wait, that it would be mistaken friendship that would give the just recognition of what has been done and of the good that exists without the serious reminder of the necessity and responsibility in the days to come.

With very best wishes for the education, the moral enlightenment and the prosperity and blessings of your people, I am

Yours truly, AUGUSTUS E. WILLSON.

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*Letter from Rev. T. T. Eaton, D. D. LL. D., editor of the Western Recorder, the leading Baptist paper of the South and pastor of the Fourth and Walnut street Baptist Church.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 4, 1897.

MR. H. C. WEEDEN, LOUISVILLE, KY.—*Dear Sir:* Your letter received. Am glad you are preparing "a succinct history of the colored people of Louisville." The history of the colored people in this country has not been adequately written, and I am glad to see all the efforts made to supply this task. I hope the colored people will more and more make history that will be worth recording. With best wishes for the success of your work and hoping to see a copy when it is completed, I am

Sincerely yours, T. T. EATON.

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*Letter from Captain John H. Leathers, Cashier of the Louisville Banking Co., President of the Industrial School of Reform and one of Louisville's prominent citizens.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., January 20, 1897.

MR. H. C. WEEDEN, City—*Dear Sir:*—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 18th, and it is also a pleasure to me to respond to it. I have always felt a sincere and heartfelt interest in the welfare and prosperity of the colored race, and I have always been ready and willing to do anything in my power to lend them a helping hand

I am a Southern man by birth, and was raised among colored people, and I think I understand something about them. I want to pay this tribute to the colored race (and it is surprising that it has not been more frequently mentioned). During the



Civil War, when every able-bodied man in the South was at the front fighting for his country and for his convictions, when the "cradle and the grave" were both robbed to furnish soldiers in the field, colored men were about the only ones left at home as guardians of the women and children left behind, and the only ones to provide the means for their support. The writer is not able to recollect a single instance during the entire war where they proved faithless to their trust; and for that alone if for nothing else, he feels a sincere and honest interest in their prosperity and happiness.

If a vicious element in the colored race has of late years marred the splendid record of the period I speak of and has brought disgrace upon their people, it is not fair that the whole colored race should be held responsible.

If, in the interest I feel for the colored race and their future, I might be asked what suggestions I could make for their future improvement, I would say first, the absolute necessity and importance of the education of their children. In our country, with its free institutions and its free schools, ample provision is made for the education of all our children, of all races, all nationalities and all creeds. We can only make good citizens of our children by training them in early life to habits of industry, thrift, sobriety, and honesty, and with the advantages of a free school education and a free Bible I can see great advancement and improvement for the coming generations of our American colored people, if they will take advantage of the opportunities offered them.

If I might make another suggestion it would be that the colored people, as people, be not like "dumb driven cattle" in their political affiliations, but with judgment and intelligent discrimination unite with other good people in electing to public office, not men for party's sake, but upon their merit.

The time has passed in this country for any political party to legislate any laws that would retard the improvement of colored people or take away from them any rights they now enjoy as citizens under our laws; and therefore in this respect the colored people run no risk whatever of endangering any of their rights by supporting for public office the best qualified men, of best character, no matter to what party he may belong.

It may seem to many people that a man like the writer, a Southern man by birth, and who for four years followed the Confederate cause, might not be either sincere or free enough from prejudice to give an unbiased opinion where the welfare of the colored race was concerned. But be that as it may, the writer has an abiding faith, as well as a sincere hope, that the colored people in the United States may become and will become a happy, prosperous and contented people, and as a citizen he is ready to favor any movement or to exert any influence he may have, or to render any assistance in his power to the furtherance of that end

Yours very truly, JOHN H. LEATHERS.

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*Letter from Mr. Thomas H. Watkins, President of the Louisville School Board.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 3, 1897.

FRIEND WEEDEN—Your letter should have been answered sooner; but I have been almost past going the last few days from a severe cold. I appreciate your third invitation to contribute a bit to your history.

WHAT ONE GENERATION HAS DONE FOR A RACE.

The interests of the Afro-American portion of our population, (not improperly, considering the usual color of his skin, called the Negro), are as numerous and diversified as are the affairs of his Caucasian fellow-denizen. Climatic conditions and long established habitat will likely link the destiny of the colored race closer in the interests of that portion of our land south of Mason and Dixon's line—to the soil of the newer but no less Sunny South.

The mutual affairs of the two races are so interwoven that which affects the one must involve the other, whether considered from a commercial, proprietary, religious or educational standpoint. So far as property and education are concerned most of the progress in the Negro's prosperity must be dated from the close of the Civil War. He could not own property when himself was a slave. Then his education was limited to acquiring skill, remuneration to his master in certain lines of manual labor and to imbibing precepts of abject obedience.

When in our market places, in the very center of our public streets human flesh and blood were put upon the block and auctioned off like mules, the public countenance had a check to pride and blush estranged—a curse that palsied the proprietor as much as it degraded the serf. Before the war the South had crystalized into a landed aristocracy, the broad acres, with herds of human stock, were in the hands of the select few. The wealthy white, relieved of the necessity to exercise became slothful and shiftless. Gratification of the senses usurped the realm of mental activity.

Factories and free-schools were almost unknown. The rich could send their children to the North and the poor could grow up in illiteracy. The poor white man could buy no land, for the lords would neither sell to him nor employ him: there were no factories for his labor, nor schools for his children. So it became a saying among the Negroes, "I'd rather be a nigger than a poor white trash."

But by the happy termination of the sanguinary strife not only were the shackles stricken from four million slaves but "the poor white trash" came in for his liberty too. The big plantations were chopped up into little farms; factories sprang up as by magic; public schools were opened, and northern money and muscle swept in like a tide, putting new vigor into the stagnant southern conservatism.

In this shake-up, almost as lively as Biblical resurrection scenes, the Negro—in freedom a stranger, the weak, trembling master of his untried self—turned his first feeble steps on the road to development. Handicapped as he was by years of servitude and want of education, besides the bitter race prejudice, he moved nervously, slowly, but surely toward the front, holding every inch he wrenched from adversity. But it was only when the school was opened that he began to stand with both feet planted on a rock. The ballot was a mighty boon; a spear and buckler in the war of civil rights; but only through education could the power of the ballot be efficiently exercised.

With equal law and justice; a free and unbulldozed ballot; with free, unsectarian schools, the Negro has little more to ask from the public, and must and should now "paddle his own canoe." Strength can come only from self-culture, and in the race of social progress the same law applies here or elsewhere—"the survival of the fittest."

Among all peoples there are few rulers needed, but many toilers. Every hive must have many workers, but need few queens and drones. This the colored race must learn and not forget: "Industry, sobriety and economy are the three cardinal virtues.

The political arena is not the field of glory or mart of usefulness. The farm, the factory, the shop, the store and other avenues of active occupation must engage more attention. Education is an embelishment, not to relieve any of the universal edict to *labor*, but rather a preparation to do more and better work. It is in the field of industrial activity that a race must find a permanent camping ground.

Next to education the accumulation of property is the best incentive to good citizenship; for with an interest in the soil one has an interest also in just laws and honest administration. The colored race is readily learning that an education is valuable only in so far as it enables its possessor to render greater service to the public; and that industry, economy and sobriety are the base of material prosperity—the backbone of stable government.

Yours respectfully, THOMAS H. WATKINS.

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